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Deep class of wide receivers could make immediate impact

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Online: Get the latest news on the virus outbreak » [stripes.com/coronavirus](https://www.stripes.com/coronavirus)

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# Safety in the Skies

## With face shields and extra planning, Chinook pilots take flight in Germany

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

**I**NSBACH, Germany  
It would have been routine training on Chinook helicopters in pre-coronavirus times, but the exercise soldiers with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade

took part in Monday required extra preparation and equipment to prevent the virus from spreading.

Wearing face masks and protective plastic shields, pilots and crew members affixed and hauled a sling load beneath the Chinook and practiced landing in low visibility conditions between Ansbach and the

Oberdachstetten training area, a 10-minute flight away.

"We had our crew members install face shields on the helmets to protect ourselves, and we take all the preventative measures of washing our hands, using hand sanitizer during the pandemic," said Chief Warrant

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 6

## Army sending recruits to basic training after pause

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Army on Monday said it will send new recruits to basic training this week, ending a two-week pause in shipping future soldiers that was aimed at mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

Recruits from areas of the country considered low-risk for the virus will be sent in the coming days to all four of the Army's basic training locations, Army officials announced in a statement. The end of the rare pause in sending recruits to basic training comes as the Army has improved its testing capacity for the virus at most of its installations, including at Fort Jackson, S.C., the training-heavy post that is the site of the service's worst coronavirus outbreak.

The Army's Training and Doctrine Command, which oversees all of the service's initial entry and more advanced training programs, made the call to begin shipping recruits Monday once they were certain appropriate measures were in place to track recruits health from the time they leave their homes until they arrive at the Army's basic training locations — Fort Jackson, Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort Sill, Okla.

Outside of Fort Jackson, the training bases have not reported widespread outbreaks of the disease, which has paralyzed much of American life, including forcing the Pentagon to severely restrict travel for its troops worldwide. Sending new recruits to the services' basic training locations, however, is exempt from the wide-ranging travel restrictions in place until June 30. The Defense Department considers training new troops essential to its mission.

SEE RECRUITS ON PAGE 6

Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Reyes, a crew chief with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, looks out of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a pilot progression training exercise Monday on Ansbach, Germany. The training went ahead, with modifications, despite the pandemic.

IMMANUEL JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Conspiracy theorists burn 5G towers

Associated Press

LONDON — Conspiracy theories that link new 5G mobile networks and the coronavirus pandemic are fueling arson attacks on cell towers, and European officials are fighting back.

Popular beliefs and conspiracy theories that wireless communications pose a threat have long been around, but the global spread of the virus at the same time that countries were rolling out fifth generation wireless tech-

nology has seen some of those false narratives amplified.

Officials in Europe and the U.S. are watching the situation, concerned that attacks will undermine vital telecommunications links.

"I'm absolutely outraged, absolutely disgusted, that people would be taking action against the very infrastructure that we need to respond to this health emergency," said Stephen Powis, medical director of the National

Health Service in England.

Some 50 fires targeting cell towers and other equipment have been reported in Britain this month, leading to three arrests. Towers have also been torched in the Netherlands, Ireland, Cyprus and Belgium.

No evidence shows wireless communications harm immune systems, said Myrtil Simko, scientific director of Sweden's SciProof International, who has spent years researching the matter.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 22)	\$1.06
Dollar buys (April 22)	€0.9002
British pound (April 22)	\$1.21
Japanese yen (April 22)	¥105.00
South Korean won (April 22)	₩1,201.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3776
British pound	\$1.2330
Canada (Dollar)	1.4194
China (Yuan)	7.0720
Denmark (Krone)	6.8597
Egypt (Pound)	15.7506
Euro	\$1.0871/0.9199
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Hungary (Forint)	236.16
Israel (Shekel)	3.5519
Japan (Yen)	107.69
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3115
Norway (Krone)	10.5204
Philippines (Peso)	50.81
Poland (Zloty)	4.16
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	7.3531
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4302
South Korea (Won)	1,231.78
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9678
Thailand (Baht)	32.52
Turkey (Lira)	6.9800

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.05
3-month bill	0.12
30-year bond	1.23

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



#### THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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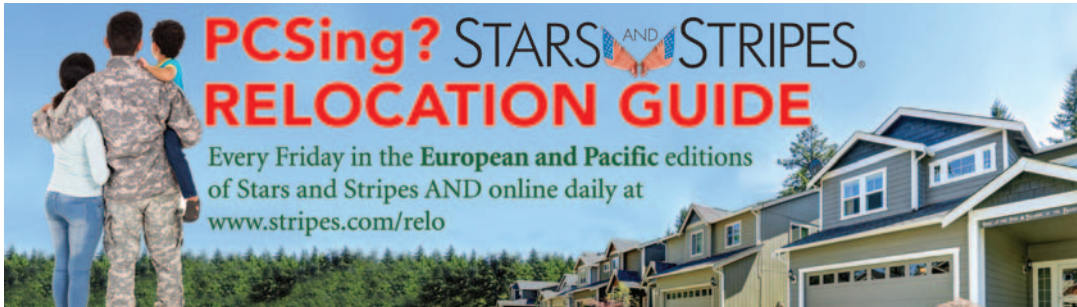
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## PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES. RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions  
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at  
[www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## MILITARY

# Nuclear-powered attack sub commissioned

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
Stars and Stripes

The Navy commissioned the 19th Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, the USS Vermont, on Saturday with an unconventional, low-key ceremony due to coronavirus restrictions.

The Vermont entered service administratively and with a small ceremony at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.

Friday, the submarine skipper, Cmdr. Charles W. Phillips III, told TV station WCAX that just the crew would attend in working uniforms while adhering to coronavirus measures.

A submarine or other vessel is commissioned after it has completed sea trials and has been accepted by the Navy. The launch occurs earlier, when the vessel enters the water, and involves breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across its bow.

Both events typically involve public fanfare.



Facebook

**The USS Vermont, the Navy's newest Virginia-class submarine, is seen prior to its commissioning in Connecticut on April 18.**

The Vermont is the first of 10 Block IV Virginia-class submarines built on a \$17.6 billion contract the Navy awarded to General Dynamics Electric Boat in April 2014.

Virginia-class submarines are designed to operate for long

periods between key maintenance cycles and to serve 15 deployments with three planned comprehensive depot maintenance periods throughout their lifespans.

Gloria Valdez, a former deputy assistant Secretary of the Navy,

sponsored the Vermont, according to a Navy statement.

"I am very proud of the Sailors and families of USS Vermont, who worked so hard to bring her life," Valdez said, according to the Navy.

The 377-foot-long Vermont is built for several missions, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, strike warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance, mine warfare, intelligence, irregular warfare and the delivery of special operations forces.

"I am confident the crew of this cutting-edge platform will carry on this tradition and confront the challenges of today's complex world with the professionalism and dedication our nation depends on from warriors of the silent service," acting Secretary of the Navy James E. McPherson said, according to the Navy statement.

The submarine can maneuver

underwater at speeds greater than 25 knots, or 28 mph, and dive to depths greater than 800 feet. Its weaponry includes Tomahawk cruise missiles and Mark 48 Advanced Capability torpedoes.

"As part of the nation's maritime asymmetric advantage over our competitors, we are ready to perform whatever duty is most needed," Phillips said, according to Navy statement. "The crew is hungry to hone our skills at-sea and become an effective fighting unit, and we will work tirelessly to justify the nation's confidence in us."

The Vermont is the third naval vessel named after the Green Mountain State. The first Vermont was a 74-gun warship authorized by Congress in 1816; the second was battleship No. 20, which was commissioned in 1907 and deployed as part of the "Great White Fleet."

lopez.christian@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CLOpez\_Stripes

## Bill would grant Gold Star families access to base benefits

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

The families of fallen service members could gain access to on-base benefits such as the commissary and recreation facilities through a House bill introduced recently.

"We need to continue to honor those service members who we have lost by fully supporting their families," said Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, D-Fla. "It should be a bipartisan issue."

The bill, which was introduced last month, is co-sponsored by Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla.

The legislation takes a straightforward approach, Mucarsel-Powell said, granting access to the commissary, base exchange and morale, welfare and recreation privileges to surviving family members who receive a Gold Star lapel pin following their loved one's death. Pins are given to a service member's spouse, parent, sibling or child.

"I'm pushing to pass this legislation as soon as possible, especially now as we are going through this pandemic. These families lose so much by losing a loved one. A lot of them lost the financial support and the assistance that they once had," Mucarsel-Powell said, referencing the coronavirus pandemic that



CHRISTOPHER MADRERO/U.S. Marine Corps

**A shopper checks out at the commissary at Camp Foster, Okinawa. The families of fallen service members could gain access to on-base benefits such as the commissary and recreation facilities through new legislation in Congress.**

has shut down much of the United States for the past month.

Commissaries, which sell tax-free groceries at 20-35% of the cost of civilian stores, have been hit just as hard as off-base counterparts by panicked shoppers preparing for stay-at-home orders in response to the pandemic. In some instances, such as at Joint Base Andrews, Md., service members have volunteered to help keep these stores stocked for military families and veterans.

The bill follows previous legislation passed in August 2018 that has granted more veterans access to base grocery stores. Primarily retirees and 100% disabled veterans earn commissary access beyond their military career. In January, about 3 million people, including service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers, were granted access to shop at base grocery stores through the

2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

In that first month, those new customers made 70,676 transactions and averaged about \$72 per purchase, said Kevin L. Robinson, spokesman for the Defense Commissary Agency.

"We've experienced a definite increase in new patrons shopping at several locations" he said in February, before the coronavirus sent grocery stores reeling.

Several Florida bases, includ-

ing MacDill Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Patrick Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Jacksonville, saw some of the highest numbers of shoppers who gained commissary access this year, Robinson said. MacDill, Pensacola and Patrick all saw more than 1,000 transactions from new customers in January, while Jacksonville saw numbers rise through March.

Those new customers did have to clear the hurdle of gaining access to military bases because most people in these categories no longer have a Defense Department identification card. A Veteran Health Identification card with "Purple Heart," "Former POW" or "Service Connected" printed on the front is required for access into the installation and entry to the stores, according to the DeCA website. Caregivers need a memo from the Department of Veterans Affairs and a federally compliant, government-issued photo ID.

Similarly, Gold Star family members who could be eligible through Mucarsel-Powell's bill would need to register with the base nearby to gain access to facilities, she said.

Mucarsel-Powell said she is now working to gain more co-sponsors, and potentially pass the bill in May by a suspension vote.

"Gold Star families have already lost enough," she said. "As a grateful nation, we should continue honoring our fallen service members by fully supporting their families. I'm hopeful we can find a way to pass this legislation soon as possible so we can get much-needed help to these families."

thayer.rose@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Rose\_Lori

### Correction

An April 15 story should have stated that four members of ISIS sleeper cells were apprehended by Syrian Democratic Forces in recent raids, the U.S.-backed group said.



## MILITARY

# Soldiers qualifying for arctic fighting get redesigned tab

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

The Army is now recognizing soldiers who have earned the distinctive skill of warfighting in harsh winter conditions with a newly upgraded and repositioned arctic tab.

The tab was redesigned in November to more closely track the arched shape and placement of tabs worn by Rangers and sappers, U.S. Army Alaska said in a news release Thursday.

The tab, previously rectangular shaped, is to be worn below the unit patch.

As was the case with the tab's previous design, soldiers earn it after completing either the Northern Warfare Training Center's Cold Weather Leaders Course or the Cold Weather Orientation Course held at the Black Rapids Training Site. The center is managed from Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Grading soldiers are then

qualified to implement basic, cold weather and ski training programs within their units.

The first soldiers to earn the new tab graduated in January from the Cold Weather Leaders Course, which is the hub for training units and their leaders in warfighting capabilities in cold weather and mountain operations, the news release said.

The redesigned tab got the go-ahead under a policy approved by Gen. Paul J. LaCamera, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, the news release said.

The tab is intended to convey the importance of the Army's capacity to train and fight in an arctic environment.

"I think what makes U.S. Army Alaska and our units unique is that we are the Army's proponent for cold weather training," Maj. Gen. Peter B. Andrysiak Jr., commander of U.S. Army Alaska, said in the news release. "We not only live here, we thrive here, and I want to make sure the tab



CONNOR DOWNEY/U.S. Army

**A soldier provides security near the Arctic Circle in Alaska on Feb. 28 in support of exercise Arctic Edge. Soldiers who qualify for arctic fighting will receive a redesigned arctic tab.**

properly recognizes our unique expertise."

Under the policy approved by LaCamera, soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Pacific units who are qualified for arctic operations can wear the tab at any of the command's installations within its area of operation, the news release said. This includes major subordinate commands and units reporting directly to U.S. Army Pacific.

Soldiers on temporary duty or deployed outside the Pacific theater, however, are not authorized to wear the tab.

"As a leader, it is important I know and understand the harsh, arctic conditions and the impact it can have on Soldiers and equipment," Capt. Robin Furrer, a recent graduate of the leader course, said in the news release. "Soldiers operate and move differently when it is minus 25 out, and our equipment does as well. So, it is important for us to have the knowledge to plan, make decisions, and adapt to these conditions."

In the news release, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Dillingham, the senior enlisted leader for U.S.

Army Alaska, described the Alaska-based cold-weather soldiers as "the first line of defense in the West and the last line of defense in the Pacific."

"From jumping into minus 100, bitter, cold, exiting the aircraft over Prudhoe Bay, to conducting live-fire exercises at minus 30 in the Donnelly Training Area, the Northern Warfare Training Center's team of professionals ensure our Soldiers are ready to deploy, fight, and win in any arctic environment," Dillingham said.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattOlson

## Raytheon chosen for new nuclear cruise missile

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Air Force has selected Raytheon Co. to continue development of its next generation air-launched nuclear cruise missile to equip its B-52 and B-21 bombers, dropping a rival bid by Lockheed Martin Corp.

The decision to focus on Raytheon as the sole contractor for the Long-Range Standoff Weapon program came after extensive evaluations of the two bids, the service said in a statement Monday.

The choice to focus on the Raytheon design means the company has the edge to become the single contractor for engineering, manufacturing and deployment of the new missiles when the contract is concluded.



ROIDAN CARLSON/U.S. Air Force

**An unarmored AGM-86B Air-Launched Cruise Missile is released from a B-52H Stratofortress in 2014. The Air Force has selected Raytheon Co. to continue development of its nuclear cruise missile.**

The Air Force plans to procure 1,000-1,100 LRSOs to replace its nuclear AGM-86B Air-Launched Cruise Missiles, which have been in service since the early 1980s. The service has said it plans to start fielding them on its B-52 and B-21 bombers by 2030.

Purchasing costs for the missiles has been estimated at \$10.8 billion, a Congressional Research Service report said

in January.

"LRSO will be a critical contributor to the air-launched portion of America's nuclear triad," said Wes Kremer, president of Raytheon Missiles and Defense. "Providing a modernized capability to the U.S. Air Force will strengthen our nation's deterrence posture."

news@stripes.com

## Attacks target police, governor in Afghanistan

Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Two separate bombings in Afghanistan targeted a senior police chief and a provincial governor on Tuesday, killing three policemen and wounding several people, including the police chief, local officials said.

In the first attack, police chief Ghulam Sakhi Ghafouri was on his way to inspect the security situation in the volatile district of Paktia in the central Day Kundu province when his car struck a roadside bomb. Three policemen in his convoy were killed and the police chief was wounded, along with two others, according to police spokesman Gul Aqa Sujadi.

In the second attack, a suicide car bombing struck by Gov. Mohammad Halim Fida's car in eastern Khost province, wounding two of his bodyguards and 12 civilians, said the governor's spokesman, Talib Mangal.

Shortly after the attack, Fida, who was unharmed in the explosion, appealed to the Taliban in a Facebook live video asking them to stop such attacks and join the peace process.

There was no claim of responsibility for either of the attacks and the Taliban did not immediately respond to the governor's appeal.

Since the signing of a peace agreement between the U.S. and the Taliban in February, the insurgents have stopped attacking U.S. and NATO troops but have struck Afghan forces in outlying areas.

The violence has continued even as the country faces the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic that threatens to overwhelm Afghanistan's war-ravaged health system.

## Military applies to expand Ariz. testing range

Associated Press

**PHOENIX** — The federal Bureau of Land Management is working with the military to allow for the continuation of testing, training and national defense at the Barry M. Goldwater Range in southern Arizona.

The BLM is processing the military's

request to extend the current reservation of 1.7 million acres of public lands along the U.S.-Mexico border for defense purposes.

The Air Force and Navy also seek the withdrawal of the acreage from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws including mining, mineral leasing

and geothermal leasing.

The Navy is acting on behalf of the Marine Corps.

In addition, the Air Force has requested the withdrawal of 2,366 acres of contiguous public lands.

The requests must be approved by Congress.

## MILITARY

# Army exemption allows some PCS moves

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — Top Army officials expect to allow hundreds of soldiers to make scheduled permanent changes of station in the coming months following less-restrictive measures approved in the Pentagon's new stop-movement order.

The latest version of the Pentagon's stop-movement order, which is scheduled to last through June 30, is meant to curb the spread of the coronavirus among its troops. Issued Monday, the order allows senior service officials to grant new exemptions for service members whose new assignments are deemed essential to the Defense Department's overall mission. The Army is working to prioritize who among the 48,000 soldiers on orders to PCS in the summer can move under the new exemption, said Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands, the Army's personnel chief.

"There's not a one size that fits all to this," Seamands told reporters Tuesday in a telephone news briefing. "We've left it up to the command [gaining a new soldier] to say why this person is mission essential — it may be the [military occupational specialty] they have, it may be the strength in the location, and why this incoming person needs to be there."

Once the command identifies a soldier's move as mission essential that unit must then coordinate with the soldier's current unit to determine if they can af-



MASTER SGT. CRISTA MARY MACK/U.S. Army

**The U.S. Army conducted a controlled transport of approximately 800 Basic Combat Training recruits from Fort Jackson, S.C. to Fort Lee, Va., the first movement of troops since restricted travel of Dept. of Defense forces was implemented March 16.**

ford to let that person move, Seamands said. If they can afford to lose that soldier, then the request will be sent to the Vice Chief of

Staff Gen. Joseph Martin, who can grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

So far, Martin had received

more than 500 requests from soldiers seeking exemptions to allow them to move and hundreds more were anticipated, Seamands said. It was not clear Tuesday precisely how many Martin was likely to approve, Seamands said.

In addition to the new exemptions allowing for soldiers to PCS for mission-essential reasons, the military services can also grant exemptions to the stop-movement order for reasons of personal hardship or if a service member is slated for a humanitarian mission.

Seamands said the Army would first prioritize moving soldiers who have been stuck in limbo after they had already begun the PCS process when the initial stop-movement order was issued in March, freezing them in place.

"If you were at Fort Hood, and you were out-processing and getting ready to go to Korea and then the stop-movement happened, you've been remaining in place," the general said as an example. "What we want to do is get those people kind of in limbo to be able to move on to their next location."

Others who likely could be approved for moves before the new order ends include certain medical personnel, some drill sergeants and some recruiters, Seamands said.

Individuals in those specialties are also likely to be among the first to PCS once the order is lifted, he said. Other priorities for determining who will move first

will include the soldier populations at military installations — which posts can quickly take new soldiers or afford to let them move on.

Army officials hope moving some soldiers before the end of the stop-movement order will somewhat decrease the burden of conducting about five months of moves in July, August and September, assuming the order is not extended further.

They also expect to see an increase in soldiers, who were issued PCS orders before March, volunteering to stay at their current duty station for an extra year, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Calloway, the commander of the service's Human Resources Command.

So far, the Army has had about 100 soldiers volunteer for that unusual program the service approved in March called "stabilizing in place." Seamands said the service could consider allowing soldiers to stabilize even longer than one year, but a decision on that has yet to be made.

"As we move to the post-[coronavirus] environment ... we have to balance [combat] readiness and what is best for the soldiers and their families," he said. "I think Army leadership has a very open mind to stabilizing and allowing people to stay in place longer, but we have to be able to maintain readiness across the force."

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

## Navy: Death of Vinson sailor not related to COVID-19

Associated Press

**BREMERTON, Wash.** — A U.S. Navy sailor has died onboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, due to causes unrelated to the coronavirus, officials said.

Spokeswoman Miranda Williams said

the first-class petty officer was found unresponsive in his work center on Saturday, the Kitsap Sun reported.

"Given the facts presented so far, this is not a COVID-related death," she said, adding that he did not exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 and had "appeared in good

health."

The Navy did not identify the officer. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating the death.

The death comes after the USS Carl Vinson emerged from dry dock earlier this month after a \$367 million overhaul at

the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Navy officials said. Previously, the Navy has publicly identified a Carl Vinson sailor who tested positive for COVID-19, but leaders have confirmed that the sailor was on leave and never made it onboard the ship, officials said.

## Sailor accused of being neo-Nazi recruiter kicked out of Navy

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — Navy officials said Monday that the service has kicked out a sailor who was investigated for allegations that he had been a neo-Nazi recruiter. David Cole Tarkington was investigated by Naval Criminal Investigative Services following a story by Gizmodo in March that alleged he had been a "prolific Atomwaffen recruiter."

The story in Gizmodo, a technology and design website, describes a leak of data from a former white supremacist online forum called Iron March that was a gathering and recruiting spot for neo-Nazi groups including Atomwaffen Division, which calls for overthrowing the U.S. government through

violence. Gizmodo reported some of this leaked data included messages made by Tarkington under the username "The Yank" between 2013 to 2016, starting when he was about 15 years old.

Tarkington was administratively separated from the Navy last week, according to Cmdr. Ron Flanders, a spokesman with Naval Air Forces. Flanders said he could not get into specifics about why Tarkington was separated.

"We pride ourselves on being an organization where people from all backgrounds can thrive and serve as part of the Navy family. Anyone who doesn't believe that is not welcome here," Flanders said in a statement.

NCIS did not respond to questions about its investigation.

However, NCIS was looking into Tarkington's alleged neo-Nazi recruiting activities, according to a Navy official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss some details of the investigation. There were no allegations that Tarkington was recruiting for the group while in the Navy, the official said.

Tarkington had been an aviation machinist's mate at the airman apprentice rank assigned to the Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-41 at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., according to his service information provided by the Navy. He enlisted in July 2019 and has no awards or decorations listed.

Flanders confirmed Tarkington's separation had come after NCIS started an investigation following a query by Gizmodo and

their research into his alleged activities.

The Gizmodo story also stated Tarkington had recruited John Cameron Denton, who is a former leader of the Atomwaffen Division in Texas. Denton was arrested in February and charged for his role

in multiple "swattings," which involves falsely telling emergency dispatchers that a person is in immediate danger, sending police or SWAT teams to the unsuspecting person's location.

Kenney, Caitlin@stripes.com  
@caitlinkennney

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# VIRUS OUTBREAK



IMMANUEL JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

From left, Sgt. Matthew Cullen, a flight engineer, Staff Sgt. Elijah Joice, a flight engineer instructor, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dylan Hawkins, an aviator, all with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, stand in front of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter before a pilot progression training exercise in Aansbach, Germany, on Monday.

## Safety: Pilots in Germany forced to adapt, still moving forward with training

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Officer 2 Dylan Hawkins, an aviator with the brigade.

The coronavirus pandemic has also forced soldiers to take longer planning their training sessions, said Staff Sgt. Elijah Joice, a flight engineer instructor with the 12th CAB.

"We have to do a little more deliberate planning to make sure we aren't bringing additional people" on the aircraft for main-

tenance, Joice said. "Our flight schedule suffers in a way because we cannot train as much as we normally do."

In pre-coronavirus times, or "when the world isn't ending," the soldiers would have flown more "and whoever isn't flying would be taking care of all the associated maintenance," brigade spokesman Maj. Robert Fellingham said.

Still, with face masks and

shields, careful planning and teamwork, the soldiers have been able to get in their required flight hours and maintain their skills, Hawkins said.

"If anything, [the virus] has slowed down the process a little bit," he said. "But with us being adaptive, we put on the face shields and adjust to all the changes."

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Manny\_Stripes

## Recruits: Army continuing to take precautions amid welcoming new arrivals to basic training

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said last week that Fort Jackson had reported about 50 cases of the virus within its basic training program. The secretary said that the installations had managed the spread of the disease, which did not appear to be widening last week.

Those cases were among 819 soldiers the Army reported to have tested positive for the coronavirus through Monday morning.

The service will ship significantly fewer recruits than it typically would in the coming weeks. April and May normally have among the smallest number of recruits shipping per month just before high school and college

graduations. It would be more problematic for the service if the pandemic stretches into the summer, as June, July and August are traditionally the service's busiest months for sending new recruits to basic training, Army officials said.

Among the measures put in place to mitigate the spread of the virus among new recruits, the Army is screening future soldiers 15 days before they ship and again 72 and 24 hours before shipping. The screening includes temperature checks and a questionnaire aimed at determining potential exposure to the virus.

Recruits are screened again when they arrive at a military entrance processing center and once more when they arrive at their basic training location, the

Army said.

Recruit classes are isolated together for the first two weeks of basic training, which will incorporate most of the required classroom work, the Army said. The service, when possible, will follow health guidelines to minimize the spread of the virus, including social distancing and the use of face coverings.

While the Army halted sending recruits to basic training, it never stopped training people who were already in initial entrance training programs. The Army plans to continue sending soldiers to advanced, job-specific training after they complete basic training and then on to their first duty stations, an official said Monday.

dickstein.orey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

# 'Fired Up Chief' recounts pain of coronavirus

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Retired Air Force command chief master sergeant Juan Lewis is usually the one encouraging his tens of thousands of followers on social media and others in person to be positive and resilient in the face of life's challenges.

But over the past few weeks, Lewis — who's widely known as the "Fired Up Chief" for the uplifting talks he gave to airmen, starting when he was a command chief at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland — was the one in need of support and encouragement as he fought for his life after contracting the coronavirus.

"This thing, it hit me so hard that it made me want to die," Lewis told Stars and Stripes over the phone from his hospital bed in the Dutch city of Sittard, which lies across the border from Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base in Germany.

Lewis works there as the deputy commander of the 470th Air Base Squadron, which falls under the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base and supports about 2,300 Americans working for NATO.

Geilenkirchen is in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, which has had nearly 29,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and 857 deaths, according to the latest figures from the Robert Koch Institute, the country's public health agency.

Lewis, 54, is unsure how he got the virus.

"I was careful. I washed my hands, social distancing and everything else that you can think of," he said.

He's physically fit and rarely sick, but has a rare condition called Melkersson-Rosenthal syndrome. People with underlying medical conditions "might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19," the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

He was moved out of intensive care last week after being hospitalized in early April. "I'm out of the woods, but I'm still struggling," he said. "I don't want to celebrate too early because I could have a relapse, but I do feel a hell of a lot better."

His doctors told him that if he had not been in training, he likely would have died, Lewis said.

His battle with the coronavirus started in mid-March when he came down with what he thought was a cold.

His times for the 5-mile run he went on most mornings were

around three minutes slower than usual, and he had a productive cough — not a dry one, which the CDC says is a common coronavirus symptom.

One day, while out with his wife, "I'm walking slower and slower and she's, like, 'Why are you walking so slow?'"

His doctor told him to self-isolate, but holed up in his home, the symptoms worsened.

"I had body aches, a fever, stomach cramps, sweating at night," he said. "It was just doing a number."

He went to the emergency room and was admitted to the intensive care unit on April 4, he said. There, a test showed that he had COVID-19.

As the Fired Up Chief, Lewis has preached and practiced the power of positive thinking, but the virus sapped his mental and physical strength, he said.

"I was like, 'Lord, just go ahead. I want to toss in the towel,'" the pain was so bad," he said. "It hurt trying to breathe, the fever, just the chills."

He's thankful for the many messages of support from friends, airmen he's mentored, even strangers who found him on Facebook.

"I didn't get to read them all but the ones I did get to read were very, very inspiring and encouraged me to keep pushing," he said.

Months of recovery lie ahead, but the ones I did get to read were very, very inspiring and encouraged me to keep pushing," he said. Months of recovery lie ahead, he's been told. Walking a few steps with a walker, even brushing his teeth, is arduous. He's lost 40 pounds, prompting a friend to joke that "a KFC chicken leg has more meat on the bones than mine," Lewis said.

The virus was still in his lungs, he said. His wife also tested positive for the virus but has recovered.

He can't have visitors at the hospital, but on Sunday, his daughter called and told him to look out the window of his sixth-floor room.

She and her boyfriend "were outside waving at me. That made me feel so good, it brought tears to my eyes," he said.

He's posted several times from his hospital bed about his fight with the virus, hoping "to make people aware" and urge them to take the pandemic seriously, he said, even as some Americans demand that lockdown measures be lifted and the economy reopened.

"I understand people in the States, some of them want to get back to normality, but ... the virus is still out there; it might even come back from overseas."

"And I don't know if that's the price they really want to pay," he said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com



# VIRUS OUTBREAK



DANI JOHNSON/U.S. Army

Desse, the physical distancing fairy, ensures Capt. Bryan Westervelt and 1st Sgt. Carmelo Vasquez, both from 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, keep appropriate distancing during a commander and senior leader family advocacy program briefing on Katterbach Kaserne, Germany, on April 16.

## Social distancing fairy raises awareness, lifts spirits on bases

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

An unusual sprite flitted across U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach recently with her sidekick, a hand sanitizer bottle with butterfly wings, to remind troops to remain socially connected while physically distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Dubbed Desse the Physical Distancing Fairy, the frilly and feathery character was the brainchild of Victoria Hanrahan and Kimberly Stockton. Hanrahan is an entertainment director for Ansbach's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Stockton is the costume specialist for THEATRIX, Installation Management Command-Europe's theatrical costume collection and workshop.

"I was speaking to my supervisor and he thought it was a cool idea," Hanrahan said in a garrison statement. "It just took off."

Stockton, dressed as the winged and bespectacled creature with a silvery bouffant, colorful cloth face covering and white gloves, visited places where people gather on base, such as the post office and dining facility, to remind them of disease prevention measures in a memorable way. She'll continue to do so randomly, the command statement said.

"(The visit) truly brightened my day," said Dina DeBoer, family advocacy program specialist with Army Community Service, quoted in the statement.

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## German state calls for masks in stores

Stars and Stripes

Masks will be required when shopping or taking public transportation beginning Monday in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, including its capital city of Stuttgart, which is home to about 28,000 Americans connected to the U.S. military.

The decision, announced Tuesday by state officials, follows similar measures by governments in

Bavaria and other parts of Germany. State Minister President Winfried Kretschmann said the reason masks are now mandated is that too few people were following the state's recommendation that mouth and nose coverings be worn in public.

In Germany, some restrictions have been lifted as the pace of new coronavirus cases in the country begins to slow. On Monday, small businesses were allowed

to open provided they maintain hygiene precautions and social distancing.

Military personnel on bases in Stuttgart and elsewhere are already required to wear masks when 6 feet of social distance can't be maintained. Masks also are generally required for troops in Germany when visiting on-base shops, such as the commissary.

news@stripes.com

## Oktoberfest among festivals canceled due to pandemic

From staff and wire reports

BERLIN — This year's Oktoberfest in Munich has been called off because of the coronavirus pandemic, as have celebrations in areas with large U.S. military communities in Germany.

The cancellation of the world-famous annual celebration of beer, which was supposed to run from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4, underlines expectations that the way back to normal life will be very long.

The Oktoberfest typically draws about 6 million visitors every year to the festival grounds in Bavaria's capital.

Bavarian Minister President Markus Soeder said after meeting Munich's mayor Tuesday: "We agreed that the risk is simply too high." He added that "you can neither keep your distance nor work with facial protection" at the Oktoberfest.

Soeder noted that the festival attracts visitors from around the world, raising concerns about bringing new infections to Bavaria.

Mayor Dieter Reiter said that "it is an emotionally difficult moment and of course it is also an economically difficult moment for our city."

Major events with mass participation are banned in Germany until at least the end of August. The country has taken the first steps toward loosening its shutdown, allowing small nonessential

shops to start opening this week, but it remains unclear when bars and restaurants will be able to welcome customers again, outside of takeout and delivery.

The Oktoberfest has previously been canceled during the two world wars; at a time of hyperinflation in Germany in 1923; and because of cholera outbreaks in 1854 and 1873, German news agency dpa reported.

Stuttgart, home to 28,000 U.S. service members, family members and civilians, "will make a decision by the end of April or early May" on whether to cancel its fall beer festival, the Cannstatter Volksfest, spokeswoman Anna Sender said.

In Germany's Rheinland-Pfalz state, Kaiserslautern has canceled its annual summer Altstadt-fest and the "Lange Nacht der Kultur," or Long Night of Culture, city officials said Tuesday. About 50,000 Defense Department personnel live in the Kaiserslautern area, which includes Ramstein Air Base and several Army bases.

In nearby Landstuhl, the Sickinger Maimarkt has been canceled and it's unclear whether the annual city festival in September will be held. Landstuhl spokeswoman Lisa Holm said.

Officials in Bad Duerkheim were unavailable for comment on whether the more than 600-year-old Wurstmurk wine festival will be held in the fall.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Revelers get into the spirit of Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany. The 2020 Oktoberfest has been canceled due to the pandemic.

## Most guardsmen in virus fight approved for benefits, health coverage

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

For weeks, National Guard members have stood on the front lines of the coronavirus fight and now the majority of the 36,750 troops deployed in every state and U.S. territory are working under a federal status that offers more benefits and military health coverage.

As of Monday, about 28,700 Guard members deployed within 38 states, three territories and Washington are approved for federal funds known as Title 32, according to information from the National Guard Bureau.

It provides governors federal funding for troops while maintaining state control of missions and allows troops to gain further benefits and protections such as worker's

compensation, a death gratuity, GI Bill accrual, retirement points, Tricare health coverage and a housing allowance.

Guard missions in the fight against the pandemic include going into nursing homes to test patients and staff, collecting the dead alongside local mortuary services and working drive-thru testing sites where thousands of Americans are swabbed for the virus while sitting in their vehicles, ac-

cording to the bureau.

The Pentagon reported Monday that 672 National Guard members have tested positive for coronavirus, though it does delineate between troops who are activated and ones who are not. Across all military branches, 3,438 service members have tested positive.

Thayer.rose@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Rose\_Lori

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Citing COVID-19, Trump says he'll halt immigration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said that he will sign an executive order “to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States” because of the coronavirus.

“In light of the attack from the Invisible Enemy, as well as the need to protect the jobs of our GREAT American Citizens, I will be signing an Executive Order to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States!” Trump tweeted late Monday.

He offered no details about which immigration programs might be affected by the order.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany issued a statement Tuesday echoing Trump’s past comments about immigration. She provided no details on what the executive order would entail.

“At a time when Americans are looking to get back to work, action is necessary,” she said.

National security adviser Robert O’Brien earlier Tuesday cast the president’s announcement as a move to protect the American health. O’Brien said the temporary immigration halt would not be “dissimilar” to limits on travel to the U.S. from China that Trump put in place in January.

“We’re trying to do everything, the president’s trying to do everything he can to put the health of the American people first during this crisis,” O’Brien said on Fox News Channel. “So this is one step. It’s not dissimilar to the restrictions on travel from China that he implemented back on Jan. 29 at the very outset of this public health crisis.”

**‘In light of the attack from the Invisible Enemy, as well as the need to protect the jobs of our GREAT American Citizens, I will be signing an Executive Order to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States!’**

President Donald Trump

O’Brien said the administration believes those travel restrictions saved lives.

Asked about Trump’s reference to jobs, O’Brien referenced the virus’ economic toll and said “the president’s looking out for Americans on both fronts at every turn.”

Trump has taken credit for his restrictions on travel to the U.S. from China and hard-hit European countries, arguing the restrictions contributed to slowing the spread of the virus in the U.S. But he has not extended those restrictions to other nations now experiencing virus outbreaks.

Due to the pandemic, almost all visa processing by the State Department, including immigrant visas, has been suspended for weeks.

Almost 800,000 Americans have come down with COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, and more than 42,000 have died, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump tweeted Monday he would suspend immigration to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Nurses from National Nurses United protest Tuesday in front of the White House in Washington. The group sought to bring attention to health care workers who have contracted COVID-19 due to a lack of personal protective equipment.

## Schumer: Deal reached on major parts of \$500B virus-aid package

By ANDREW TAYLOR and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday agreement has been reached on major elements of a nearly \$500 billion coronavirus aid package for small businesses, including additional help for hospitals and virus testing.

Schumer said post-midnight talks among Democratic and Republican leaders, along with Trump administration officials, including White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, produced a breakthrough agreement on the package.

“We have a deal and I think we’ll pass it today,” Schumer said on CNN. He cautioned that staff are still “dotting the i’s and crossing the t’s.”

A Tuesday afternoon Senate session could provide an opportunity to quickly pass the legislation if it comes together quickly, though the Democratic-controlled House is planning on calling lawmakers to Washington for a vote later in the week.

A senior Senate GOP leadership aide cautioned that the measure is not finalized and that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has yet to publicly sign off on it.

Schumer said that Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were in close contact with McConnell during the endgame talks.

“Every major issue was resolved,” Schumer said. “So yes, I believe we have a deal.”

Most of the funding, more than \$300 billion, would go to boost a small-business payroll loan program that ran out of money last week. Additional help would be given to hospitals, and billions more would be spent to boost testing for the virus, a key step in building the confidence required to reopen state economies.

The emerging draft measure — originally designed by Republicans as a \$250 billion stopgap to replenish the payroll subsidies for smaller businesses — has grown into the second-largest of the four coronavirus response bills so far. Democratic demands have caused the measure to balloon, though they likely will be denied the money they want to

help struggling state and local governments.

The Senate met for a brief pro forma session Monday that could have provided a window to act on the upcoming measure under fast-track procedures requiring unanimous consent to advance legislation, but it wasn’t ready in time.

McConnell, R-Ky., set up the Tuesday session in the hope that an agreement will be finished by then. McConnell warned, however, that he wouldn’t know whether the Senate could pass it by voice vote until the measure is unveiled.

The House has announced a vote on the pending package could come later in the week, possibly on Thursday, according to a schedule update from Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md. Hoyer also announced that the chamber will vote on a temporary rules change to permit limited proxy voting during the COVID-19 crisis.

With small-business owners reeling during a coronavirus outbreak that has shuttered much economic activity, the administration has been pressing for an immediate replenishment of the paycheck protection program. But Democrats sought additional money in a replay of the tactical jockeying that caused the recently passed rescue measure to spiral to about \$2 trillion.

Talks have dragged as the two sides have quarreled over the design of a nationwide testing regime, among other unsettled pieces.

Democrats were rebuffed in a request for another \$150 billion in aid to revenue-strapped state governments but did win the ability to use recently appropriated federal funds to cover revenue losses from the economic shutdown in stead of using it only for costs related to suppressing COVID-19.

The administration says further state aid will come in the next relief bill. There’s also pressure to help cities with populations of less than 500,000 that were shut out of the massive \$2 trillion relief bill that passed last month.

Schumer said Monday that he had talked to Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell and that Powell said the Fed is working to open up the Main Street Lending program to nonprofits and municipal governments.

The accord links the administration’s effort to replenish the small-business fund with Democrats’ demands for more money for hospitals and virus testing. It would give more than \$300 billion for the small-business payroll program, with \$60 billion or so set aside for lenders that seek to focus on underbanked neighborhoods and rural areas.

**‘Every major issue was resolved. So, yes, I believe we have a deal.’**

**Chuck Schumer**  
Senate Democratic Leader



## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## UN urges quick scaling up of medicines, vaccines

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — The U.N. General Assembly has demanded global action to quickly scale up the development of and access to medicines, vaccines and equipment to battle the pandemic, while the World Health Organization warned Tuesday that rushing to ease coronavirus lockdowns could lead to a resurgence of the outbreak.

The U.N. resolution asks Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to work with the WHO and make recommendations to ensure that all people have equitable and timely access to testing, medical supplies, drugs and future vaccines, especially in developing countries.

African officials have been outspoken about the need for medical supplies across the 54-nation continent, where health systems have historically been underfunded and will be overwhelmed by the virus. Even under a best-case scenario, Africa will need \$44 billion for testing, personal protective equipment and treatment of the coronavirus, according to a report last week by the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa. The worst-case scenario estimates that \$446 billion would be needed.

WHO said that the number of beds in intensive care units available to treat COVID-19 patients in 43 African countries is less than 5,000. That's about five beds per 1 million people compared to 4,000 beds per 1 million in Europe.

Africa has more than 23,000 infections across the continent, including more than 1,100 deaths. Authorities this week are starting to roll out a dramatic increase in testing, with the goal of testing 1 million people over the next four weeks.

Dr. Takeshi Kasai, the WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, noted that any easing of restrictions must be gradual.

"This is not the time to be lax," he said. "Instead, we need to

ready ourselves for a new way of living for the foreseeable future."

Kasai said that governments must remain vigilant to stop the spread of the virus and the lifting of lockdowns and other social distancing measures must strike the right balance between keeping people healthy and allowing economies to function.

Several European countries, including Denmark, Austria, Spain and Germany, have begun a gradual easing of restrictions, allowing some people to go back to work, including hairdressers, dentists and construction workers. Scattered protests have erupted across the United States, the hardest-hit nation in the pandemic, with people demanding a return to work in a country that has already seen 22 million people lose their jobs.

But in an indication that it will be a long time before life returns to normal, German officials announced Tuesday that they were calling off the world-famous Oktoberfest beer festival in Munich, which typically draws about 6 million visitors each year.

"We agree that the risk is simply too high," Bavarian governor Markus Söder said after meeting with Munich's mayor. "You can neither keep your distance nor work with facial protection" at Oktoberfest.

Scores of summer concerts and festivals have been canceled due to virus lockdowns, but Oktoberfest was supposed to run from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4.

Germany has taken the first steps toward loosening its shutdown, allowing small shops to start opening this week, but it remains unclear when bars and restaurants will reopen.

In one of the worst-hit countries, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte on Tuesday confirmed that businesses can start reopening May 4, but doubted any hopes of a total loosening of the country's strict lockdown.

"Many citizens are tired of the



RAHIMAT GUL/AP

**Afghans wait to receive free wheat donated by the government ahead of the upcoming holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan during a quarantine for the coronavirus in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday.**

efforts that have been made so far and would like a significant loosening of these measures, or even their total abolition," Conte said on Facebook, adding that "a decision of that kind would be irresponsible."

In the U.S., some states announced aggressive reopening plans on Monday, despite deep concerns from health officials. Boeing and at least one other American heavy equipment manufacturer resumed production, while Australia said Tuesday that doctors could resume non-urgent surgeries next week.

The moves come amid soaring unemployment that the International Monetary Fund says could lead to the developed world's worst economic depression since the 1930s.

Businesses that start operating again in the U.S. are likely to en-

gender good will with President Donald Trump, as his administration is doling out billions in relief to companies. Trump has been agitating to restart the economy, singling out Democratic-led states and egging on protesters complaining that the shutdowns are destroying their livelihoods and tramping their rights.

In several states — most of them Republican-led — governors said they saw signs that the coronavirus curve was flattening, making it possible to start reopening businesses and public spaces.

But governors from many other U.S. states said that they lacked the testing supplies they need and warned they could get hit by a second wave of infections, as people with no symptoms can still spread the disease.

"Who in this great state actually believes that they care more

about jet skiing than saving the lives of the elderly or the vulnerable?" Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer asked, referring to restrictions in her state. "This action isn't about our individual right to gather. It's about our parents' right to live."

Worldwide, the virus has infected nearly 2.5 million people and caused more than 170,000 deaths, according to a Johns Hopkins University count. The U.S. is the hardest-hit country, with nearly 788,000 infections and more than 42,000 deaths.

The true toll of the pandemic is believed to be much higher, in part because of limited testing, difficulties in counting the dead and attempts by some governments to hide the extent of their outbreaks.

## Oil prices continue to crumble; stocks around the world drop

By STAN CHOE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oil's chaotic collapse deepened and stocks around the world dropped Tuesday as markets remain upside down amid the economic carnage caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

A day after oil futures plunged below zero for the first time, traders in one corner of the U.S. crude market were still close to paying others to take it off their hands. That's a market quirk created by a glut of oil, which has traders running out of places to store it in the near term.

Prices are still above zero for oil elsewhere in the world and for deliveries further into the future. But they slid sharply Tuesday on the same ultimate concern: A

global economy incapacitated by the virus outbreak doesn't need to burn as much fuel. Airplanes are parked, cars are garaged and factories are idled with millions of workers losing their jobs every week.

The crumbling oil market dragged on stocks, and energy producers around the world sank sharply from Exxon Mobil in Texas to Total in France. The S&P 500 was down nearly 1.5% after the first half hour of trading followed larger losses across Europe and Asia.

Treasury prices rose, sending yields lower, in another sign of the worry washing over markets.

Even with all the chaos in the oil markets, some signs of economic activity on the horizon were poking through elsewhere. The Senate's Democratic leader said that

negotiators reached agreement on a nearly \$500 billion proposal to provide more loans and aid to small businesses and hospitals. Georgia's governor, meanwhile, announced plans late Monday to allow gyms, hair salons and other businesses to reopen as early as Friday.

Rising optimism among some investors that infections may be starting to level off in some areas and that some parts of the economy could reopen have helped stocks rally recently, with the S&P 500 up more than 20% since hitting a low in late March. The rally got its start after the Federal Reserve and Congress promised massive amounts of aid for the economy.

But the data coming in on the economy in the here and now continues to be dismal. A report

Tuesday showed that sales of previously occupied homes in the United States fell even more than economists expected last month. But the economic pain is most clear in the oil market.

A barrel of U.S. oil to be delivered in May costs about the same as a bottle of water: \$1.25. It was at negative \$1.48 just a few minutes before stocks began trading in New York and had settled at negative \$37.63 on Monday.

Because of the collapse in demand, storage tanks for oil are close to the brim at a key energy hub in Oklahoma. That has traders willing to pay others to take delivery of that oil in May, so long as they also take the burden of figuring out where to put it.

Prices are higher for oil to be delivered later in the summer, when demand could conceivably

be stronger as lockdowns lift. But even there, optimism is fading.

A barrel of U.S. oil for delivery in June dropped \$4.86, or 23.8%, to \$15.56. Brent crude, the international oil standard, fell nearly 22% to \$20.02 per barrel.

"We could merely be in the eye of the hurricane as the centers of its rage remain centered around demand devastation and crude oil oversupply," Stephen Innes of AxiCorp said in a commentary.

"At a minimum, oil prices will be the last asset class to recover from lockdown" and only when travel restrictions are lifted, he said.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 368 points, or 1.6%, at 23,282, and the Nasdaq was down 1.5%.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK



MATT ROURKE/AP

Anali Reyes Vazquez, a senior at Rutgers University-Camden, poses for a photograph in Barrington, N.J.

## College seniors facing job worries and family stress

By MARYCLAIRE DALE  
Associated Press

Sent home from college because of the coronavirus outbreak, Carter Oselett is back in his childhood bedroom, paying rent on an empty apartment near campus and occasionally fighting with his parents over the television remote. He's handling the grocery shopping for an aunt recovering from COVID-19 and watching his mom, an optician, try to file for unemployment benefits.

His summer program at a university in Brazil has been canceled and he's not sure that he will graduate from Michigan State University in December as planned. And to top it off, he turned 21 quarantined at home with his folks.

"So much fun," Oselett said dryly from his family home in Macomb, about 100 miles from his East Lansing campus. "I got to buy a bottle of wine from our local grocer, and that was my big night."

For many of the nearly 2 million people expected to earn U.S. bachelor's degrees in 2020, the pandemic has taken away their housing, friends and long-held dreams of a graduation ceremony. Some college seniors have been jolted into supporting "adulting" as they try to support themselves or struggling family members. For others, it's adulthood delayed, as their post-college work, travel or internship plans are nixed for a dispiriting move back home.

And nearly all of them fear that their first steps to adulthood will be clouded by a global recession.

University of Iowa psychologist Barry Schreier advised students to hold onto their goals, even if they have to adjust their timelines. And he said that they should expect to cycle through the stages of grief: denial, anger and depression among them.

"Adulting is a ladder to climb for

a lot of our students on a good day. And these are certainly not good days," said Schreier, communications chairman of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors.

Axel Lopez, a senior at the University of California, Los Angeles, and sports photographer at The Daily Bruin, hoped to take a last walk through the newsroom before moving to Utah this summer for a paralegal job. He's now quarantined in his off-campus apartment, taking his final term online. The expected job offer never came.

"It's a very uncertain time, considering just a couple of months ago, it seemed there was a surplus of jobs available," he said.

A first-generation college student who accompanied his mother growing up as she cleaned houses in Los Angeles, Lopez had dreams of hugging his mom at graduation and telling her, "Yeah, it was all worth it."

UCLA announced that its June commencement would be held online, then reconsidered after a backlash. The university has promised to hold an in-person celebration later.

"Even though we're going to have it in the next year, I feel it won't be the same," he said.

Not far from Lopez, Victoria Arevalo is back in her family's small two-bedroom apartment in west Los Angeles, where the bunk beds she shares with an older sister frame her appearance in online classes. She had hoped to stay at her apartment at nearby Loyola Marymount University, where she's studying communications, but that left her family left the refund she'd get if she left — her stepfather was furloughed from his warehouse job.

In the blink of an eye, Arevalo lost her emotional "safe space," her paid TV news internship and her final months with college friends. At first, she lashed out on social media. But after a few

weeks back home, she's come to accept the situation and the tough road ahead.

"I know it's going to be a lot harder than it would have been. I'm just trying mentally to prepare myself," said Arevalo, 22, who moved to the U.S. from El Salvador as a child. "There's good days and bad days. It fluctuates."

For health sciences major Anali Reyes Vazquez, the sweeping turmoil has brought setbacks — her parents are out of work — but also a glimmer of opportunity.

The 21-year-old senior at Rutgers University in Camden, N.J., planned to find a job and start a part-time master's degree program come June. Now, she's holding off on signing a new lease in case she needs to move home to New Brunswick.

One of her final classes, though, is a course on medical translating, which could help her land a position amid the pandemic serving Spanish-speaking patients.

"There are people in need, even though it is a scary thought," she said.

Back in Michigan, Oselett finds his bedroom "a little smaller than I remember it."

He spends some of his time working for a California-based nonprofit called Rise, pairing college students who are in crisis because of campus shutdowns with emergency funding.

His classes, which have switched to pass/fail grading, involve a mix of posted assignments and videoconferencing.

"Everyone has sort of adapted to it, but it just doesn't feel as worthwhile," Oselett said. "No one wants to worry about learning right now."

Other times, he and his parents squabble over what to watch on television. He and his father like "Schitt's Creek." His mother? Not so much.

"We almost have too much time to watch TV and argue about it," he said.

# States work to keep meat plants open

By RYAN J. FOLEY  
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Governors in the Midwest are working to keep large meatpacking plants operating despite coronavirus outbreaks that have sickened hundreds of workers and threaten to disrupt the nation's supply of pork and beef.

In Kansas, Gov. Laura Kelly sent personal protective equipment and testing supplies to counties with meat processing plants. Gov. Kristi Noem said that she didn't think it would be difficult to fulfill federal requirements to reopen a shuttered facility in South Dakota. And Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds warned of the dire cost of closing plants, even as she acknowledged the certainty of more clusters of infection at the facilities.

JBS USA said Monday that it was suspending operations at a large pork processing plant in southwestern Minnesota because of an outbreak of COVID-19 among workers — the latest facility to be closed in the public health crisis.

Minnesota Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said that 33 JBS employees and six close relatives had tested positive as of Saturday.

Meat processing workers are particularly susceptible to the virus because they typically stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the line and congregate in crowded locker rooms and cafeterias.

The JBS plant in Worthington employs more than 2,000 people and normally slaughters 20,000 hogs per day.

"We don't make this decision lightly," Bob Krebs, president of Colorado-based JBS USA Pork, said in a statement. "We recognize JBS Worthington is critical to local hog producers, the U.S. food supply and the many businesses that support the facility."

Iowa's governor has also warned of the threat to food supplies if authorities clamp down too hard on facilities with outbreaks, and has refused to shutter a sprawling Tyson Foods pork processing facility in Waterloo where dozens of workers are infected.

Reynolds said that the state is working with meat companies to test workers and prevent outbreaks from growing too large, even as she acknowledged that more "clusters of positive cases" are certain.

"These are also essential businesses and an essential work-

force," she said. "Without them, people's lives and our food supply will be impacted. So we must do our part to keep them open in a safe and responsible way."

Reynolds noted that Iowa produces about one-third of the nation's pork. If hogs can't be processed, farmers will have to euthanize them, the governor warned.

"We're not that far from it and it will be devastating, not only for the food supply but for the cost of food moving forward," she said.

Advocates for workers said that Reynolds has little regard for a vulnerable workforce that includes many refugees and immigrants.

"It's sickening," said Democratic state Sen. Bill Dotzler of Waterloo, who has called for a temporary closure and stronger worker protections. Hospitals and medical clinics in his city reported a surge in patients Monday, and many of them were Tyson employees.

A National Beef plant in Tama, Iowa, that had been closed for two weeks resumed production on Monday as scheduled. A day earlier, Reynolds announced that 177 workers out of more than 500 tested were positive for the coronavirus.

Cargill and National Beef have reported infections among employees at plants in southwest Kansas, prompting Kelly to direct an influx of federal tests and safety equipment to counties in that region. Tyson also has plants there but has not confirmed infections.

Controlling those outbreaks is crucial: Plants in southwest Kansas account for 25 to 30% of beef processing in the U.S.

"It would be a disaster if we had to shut down, so we're trying to do everything that we can to keep these plants online," Kelly told The Associated Press.

South Dakota's governor said that the temporary closure of a Smithfield Foods pork plant which produces about 5% of the U.S. pork supply has already been "devastating" for regional producers.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for safely reopening the Sioux Falls plant will be made public soon, Noem said. Its report will call for expanded use of face shields and other protective equipment, improved social distancing and better communication between the company and workers.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

## Md. governor, wife procure 500K virus tests from S. Korea

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland has dramatically boosted its testing capacity for the new coronavirus with a shipment of 500,000 tests from a South Korean company, the state's governor announced Monday, noting his Korean-born wife played a major role in championing the \$9 million purchase.

As states have scoured the world for testing supplies, Republican Gov. Larry Hogan said he asked wife Yumi Hogan on March 28 to help negotiate the purchase, tapping into the goodwill she has sought to foster between the state and South Korea. Hogan said 22 days of negotiations led to the shipment's delivery Saturday.

The governor noted that President Donald Trump had told state officials the states need to lead on boosting their testing capacity.

"The administration made it clear over and over again. They want the states to take the lead, and we have to go out and do it ourselves, and so that's exactly what we did," Hogan said at the news conference, flanked by the first lady.

The purchase was cited at Monday's press briefing at the White House, with President Donald Trump opining that he didn't believe it was necessary.

## Alaska

JUNEAU — Gov. Mike Dunleavy said Alaskans soon could be making appointments at barbershops and nail salons again, as the state looks to further reopen parts of the economy shut down or restricted over coronavirus concerns.

Dunleavy on Monday said details are expected this week. Other areas he said were being looked at include restaurants and retail shops, businesses he said employ many people and could place safety protocols while meeting demand for services.

The state feels pretty good about its numbers and its health care capacity, equipment and ability to track cases, he said. The state has reported at least 321 cases of COVID-19, with 161 of those cases recovered and nine deaths.

## Arizona

PHOENIX — Hundreds of protesters descended on the Arizona Capitol on Monday to demand Gov. Doug Ducey lift restrictions on businesses meant to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Flouting the recommendations of health officials to remain at least 6 feet from others and wear masks in public, demonstrators urged the government to be vastly overreacted to the disease.

Protesters in Phoenix crammed together in a park across from the Statehouse to hear from two state lawmakers and others before marching toward Ducey's office. Some went inside the building that houses the Republican's offices.

Ducey has been cautious in describing how and when he might ease the restrictions that he issued March 30 and due to expire April 30.

## California

SACRAMENTO — Hundreds of protesters lobbying to ease Gov. Gavin Newsom's tight stay-at-home orders rallied around the California Capitol on Monday, even as Newsom continued to urge restraint, saying the worst thing state leaders could do is "make a decision that's based on politics and frustration."

He outlined his approval for some counties to gradually relax some restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus, saying he approved a plan by Ventura County in Southern California to reopen golf courses and parks.

Newsom promised an update Wednesday on how the state is doing on the six measures he has said will be critical to reopening California.

At least 1,225 people have died from the new coronavirus in California as of Monday and nearly 30,000 have been confirmed to have the virus, but Newsom has acknowledged that testing has lagged in the state of nearly 40 million.

## Hawaii

HONOLULU — Hawaii Gov. David Ige said Monday the islands aren't yet ready to relax restrictions put in place to control the spread of the coronavirus but his administration will be releasing criteria for doing so in the next few days.

Ige said one of the first activities he'd like to allow to resume is elective medical procedures.

Ige imposed a stay-at-home order for the entire state through April 30, though he said it's possible he may extend it.

On Monday, the state Department of Health said Hawaii had 584 cases of COVID-19, an increase of just four from the day before, including two on Maui and two on the Big Island. Oahu and Kauai had no new cases.

## Montana

HELENA — For the first time since the Montana state lab started running tests for coronavirus, the health department reported no positive COVID-19 tests among



BRIAN WITTE/AP

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, left, with his wife, Yumi Hogan, announced Monday that Maryland has received a shipment from a South Korean company containing 500,000 tests for COVID-19. Hogan said he asked his wife, an American who was born in South Korea, to help negotiate with Korean officials.

the 153 that were performed Sunday. Toole County reported its fifth COVID-19 death on Monday and Cascade County reported its second, raising the state's total to 12.

The latest Toole County victim was a woman in her 80s who was not identified. The Cascade County victim was a man over the age of 65 who had underlying health conditions.

All 29 of the cases in Toole County, which has a population about 4,800 residents, have been because of close contact rather than community transmission, said Blair Tomscheck, director of the county Health Department. Nearly all are tied to an assisted living facility and to the hospital in the city of Shelby, officials have said.

Montana has reported 433 cases of COVID-19, with just over 11,000 tests performed.

## North Carolina

RALEIGH — A large COVID-19 outbreak at an eastern North Carolina prison has led officials to shutter a nearby facility and transfer its offenders elsewhere so guards can help relieve staff at the beleaguered Neuse Correctional Institution.

Officers from the Johnston Correctional Institution should start working in coming days at Neuse, where now more than 330 of the 700 offenders and about a dozen of its 250 employees are infected with the virus, the Division of Prisons said Monday.

Almost 200 test results from Neuse were pending. Mass testing was conducted after the first two offenders at Neuse, where prisoners live in dormitories, tested positive earlier this month.

Operations at the Johnston prison, located about 25 miles from Neuse, are suspended temporarily.

The Neuse prison also received

shipments of personal protective gear and building disinfectant machines over the weekend, the division said. The state prison system has banned visitations and the receipt of prisoners from county jails.

## Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf on Monday set May 8 as the date he wants to begin easing some pandemic restrictions, saying Pennsylvania had made sufficient progress against COVID-19 to warrant a gradual reopening of the economy.

All 12.8 million Pennsylvanians will have to stay home at least through that date, said Wolf, extending his existing stay-at-home order by another eight days. But he suggested it might then be lifted in areas of the state where the coronavirus — which has killed more than 1,200 Pennsylvania residents — does not pose as great a threat.

Pennsylvania will also ease some restrictions on building construction and vehicle sales, Wolf announced at a video news conference as hundreds of protesters, defying a ban on mass gatherings, staged an anti-shutdown rally at the Capitol.

## Virginia

FALLS CHURCH — For the third straight day, Virginia health authorities are reporting a drop in the state's number of new coronavirus cases.

The Virginia Department of Health reported 453 new cases in the last 24 hours for a total of 8,990. The death toll increased from 277 to 300 as the pandemic continues.

The drop in new cases marks the first time since the virus arrived in Virginia that the state has reported three consecutive

days of declines, according to data kept by the Virginia Public Access Project.

Gov. Ralph Northam and federal officials have indicated they want to see a 14-day trend of declining cases before phasing in an end to the restrictions on businesses that Northam imposed in a series of executive orders to fight the spread of the virus.

Northam said at a news conference Monday that while "the numbers have slowed down a bit over the weekend, we still have 500 new cases each day." He said he expects based on computer modeling that Virginia cases will not peak until later this week.

## Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Officials have identified seven people who appear to have contracted the coronavirus through activities related to the April 7 election in Wisconsin, Milwaukee's health commissioner said.

Commissioner Jeanette Kowalik said six of the cases involve Milwaukee voters and one is a Milwaukee poll worker, the Journal Sentinel reported.

Officials hope to have additional information on the cases by the end of the week, including whether any of them were concentrated in any of the city's five polling places or if any resulted in death, Kowalik said Monday.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm said Monday there were no signs yet of a surge in cases from the election as some feared. Palm noted, however, that if cases do exist symptoms may not have appeared yet.

Tuesday marks the 14th day since the election, which is a time frame during which health officials say symptoms typically appear.



## NATION

# Dem donors feel pinch amid virus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Well-to-do donors gathered last August at the sprawling Charlotte, N.C., home of Erskine Bowles, a former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, where they nibbled finger food, sipped wine and listened to Joe Biden.

Last week they again joined Bowles and his wife, Crandall. But this time it was for a far less intimate affair: a fundraiser held by video conference that Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, joined from the makeshift studio in the basement of his Delaware home.

The coronavirus shutdown has forced Democratic donors to forgo the opulent fundraisers that allow them to rub shoulders with powerful elected leaders and candidates.

During the Democratic primary, progressive candidates and activists condemned big-dollar affairs. But they have become a practical necessity for Biden that is sure to rattle progressives, who point to an army of grassroots donors contributing small amounts online as the antidote to big money in politics.

As the coronavirus punishes the economy and swamps the health care system, the poor and middle class are among the hardest hit, all but ensuring that Democrats' wealthiest donors will have to bear the cost of the party's effort against President Donald Trump in November.

Bowles said that the pandemic has delivered "economic hits ... to everybody, regardless of their station" but that the Democratic donor class remains engaged.

"When I say raising this money was easy, it really was," he said of the virtual event.

Some deep-pocketed Democrats embrace the turnaround.

"There's nobody more patriotic than Democratic donors who write large checks, because they are giving against their own self-interest," said Kirk Wagar, a Democratic donor, former ambassador and fundraiser who was Florida finance chair for Barack

Obama's campaign.

The role money will play in the presidential campaign is complicated and may not be the arms race that it has been in previous contests. But just how much of it will be needed in an abbreviated campaign that has been ground to a halt by the virus is not clear, especially in a contest between a president who dominates the news media landscape and a former vice president with near universal name recognition.

Wealthy donors were always going to play a major role financing the general election. But Biden did a poor job raising money during the primary and was running perilously low on funds before his big victory in the South Carolina primary upended the race.

He's now up against Trump and a Republican National Committee that have already stockpiled \$240 million as of the end of March. Biden reported Monday that he took in \$46.6 million in March, though less than half of it came from small-dollar donors who gave \$200 or less. And according to figures previously released by the campaign, most of that, \$33 million, was raised in the first half of the month before financial markets plummeted and much of the country went into lock down.

He's since enjoyed a surge in online fundraising, with the campaign saying it raised more than \$5 million in the days surrounding endorsements from former President Barack Obama and progressive former rivals Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. But Biden's financial concerns are enough that he's yet to announce any significant staff hires across many key battleground states.

And the campaign hasn't trumpeted months' worth of television or digital ad buys ahead of the fall campaign.

"Trump is raising hundreds of millions of dollars, and we're definitely going to need the help of big-dollar donors to beat him — it's just the reality," said Marc Stanley, a Democratic donor and trial attorney from Dallas.



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

**Suspected undocumented immigrants are moved out of the holding area after being processed at the Border Patrol's Tucson Sector in 2012. The federal government is appealing an order by a U.S. District Court judge requiring the Border Patrol to provide beds, blankets, showers and medical evaluations to migrants held in its Tucson Sector facilities for over 48 hours.**

## US appeals judge's order to give detained migrants beds in Ariz.

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Trump administration on Monday appealed a federal court order requiring the U.S. Border Patrol to provide beds, blankets, showers, quality food and medical evaluations to migrants held in many Arizona facilities longer than 48 hours.

In February, U.S. District Judge David C. Bury ruled in favor of migrants who sued nearly five years ago over what they called dangerously crowded and inhumane conditions in Arizona's Tucson Sector, which covers most of the state.

Bury wrote that the Border Patrol and its parent agencies, including Customs and Border Protection, "administer a detention system that deprives detainees, who are held in CBP stations, Tuc-

son Sector, longer than 48 hours, of conditions of confinement that meet basic human needs."

The judge issued the final order last week, calling on the government to provide actual beds, not sleeping mats, and washable blankets, not the thin, foil-type ones provided now. It also requires that immigrants detained longer than two days get meals approved by a nutritionist and assessed by a doctor, nurse or other medical professional.

Migrants have long decried conditions in Border Patrol facilities, now infamously known as hieleras, or iceboxes, filing the lawsuit in June 2015. Video shown during the January trial showed a man walking over body after body in an attempt to reach a bathroom. His cell was so crowded, migrants were sleeping

in the bathrooms, too.

The government has long said that the facilities are meant for short-term stays and that immigrants only remain for extended periods when other agencies don't have the capacity to take them in.

President Donald Trump's administration didn't list a reason for its appeal. But government attorneys argued in court that no constitutional violations had been proven and that the Border Patrol has taken steps to reduce time in custody. An attorney also said at trial that there wasn't funding to build facilities with beds.

The order applies only to the Tucson Sector, which includes eight facilities where migrants are held before they are deported or transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

## Supreme Court: Criminal juries must be unanimous to convict

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that juries in state criminal trials must be unanimous to convict a defendant, settling a quirk of constitutional law that had allowed divided votes to result in convictions in Louisiana and Oregon.

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the court that the practice is inconsistent with the Constitution's right to a jury trial and that it

should be discarded as a vestige of Jim Crow laws in Louisiana and racial, ethnic and religious bigotry led to its adoption in Oregon in the 1930s.

"In fact, no one before us contests any of this; courts in both Louisiana and Oregon have frankly acknowledged that race was a motivating factor in the adoption of their States' respective nonunanimity rules," Gorsuch wrote.

The justices' 6-3 vote over-

turned the conviction of Evangelist Ramos. He is serving a life sentence in Louisiana for killing a woman after a jury voted 10-2 to convict him in 2016. Oregon is the only other state that allows for non-unanimous convictions for some crimes.

Louisiana voters changed the law for crimes committed beginning in 2019.

Now the same rules will apply in all 50 states and in the federal system: Juries must vote unani-

mously for conviction.

"We are heartened that the Court has held, once and for all, that the promise of the Sixth Amendment fully applies in Louisiana, rejecting any concept of second-class justice," Ramos' lawyer, Ben Cohen, said in a statement. "In light of the COVID-19 crisis, it is essential that prisoners who are wrongfully incarcerated be given the chance for release as soon as possible."

The Oregon District Attorneys'

Association said in a statement "that a change to unanimous verdicts could make criminal convictions more difficult. However, it is a hallmark of our justice system that it should be difficult to take someone's liberty."

The outcome will affect defendants who are still appealing their convictions. But for defendants whose cases are final, it will take another round of lawsuits to figure out whether the high court ruling applies to them.

# WORLD

## Police keep battling uptick of unrest in locked-down Paris

Associated Press

PARIS — Paris police are facing a modest uptick of unrest in the oft-troubled suburbs of the locked-down French capital, making a small number of arrests after fires were set and fireworks lobbed to shatter the calm imposed by stay-home measures to counter the coronavirus.

A scattering of vehicle and trash can blazes and firework explosions on the outskirts of Paris this week have been far milder than previous outbreaks of violence so far. But the renewed tensions are also a reminder of policing difficulties that have long simmered in troubled neighborhoods of the city before the virus lockdown forced most people indoors.

Paris police said that officers arrested nine people in two sub-

urbs overnight Tuesday. They were suspected of either possessing fireworks or gathering together to commit violence.

A possible trigger for the flare-up appears to have been a traffic accident this past weekend involving a police car and a motorcyclist who was injured. Police reported that projectiles were thrown at officers following the crash Saturday evening.

The French lockdown, in place since March 17, has been particularly tough for families jammed together in small apartments in the poorer Paris suburbs. The stay-home orders and police patrols to enforce them have also disrupted underground economies that are centered around drug-dealing and other crime in unruly projects.



PAVEL GOLOVIN/AP

## Pointed practice

Russian Bolshoi Ballet principal dancers Maria Alexandrova and Vladislav Lantratov attend an online training with their ballet partners at home in Moscow. Russians from many walks of life are struggling to adapt to working remotely because of the coronavirus outbreak. The shutdown has driven many businesses to the verge of collapse and made millions jobless, according to estimates.

## UK Parliament to hold virtual debates amid virus lockdown

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's Parliament is going back to work, and the political authorities have a message for lawmakers: Stay away.

U.K. legislators and most parliamentary staff were sent home in late March as part of a nationwide lockdown to slow the growing spread of the coronavirus. With more than 16,500 virus

deaths in Britain and criticism growing of the government's response to the pandemic, legislators are returning Tuesday — at least virtually — to grapple with the crisis.

House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle plans to preside over an almost-empty chamber, with space being made for a maximum of 50 of the 650 members of Parliament. Other lawmakers will be able to ask questions from home using videoconferencing

program Zoom, beamed onto screens erected around the wood-paneled Commons chamber.

Hoyle acknowledged that "there are bound to be bumps along the way" as the tradition-steeped 700-year-old institution takes a leap into the unknown. But he urged lawmakers not to travel to Parliament.

"I do not want members and House staff putting themselves at risk," Hoyle said.

A small number of legislators

will meet in person Tuesday to approve the new digital arrangements. Taped spaces will keep them 6.5 feet apart.

The virtual Parliament will have its first big test Wednesday during the weekly Prime Minister's Questions session. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab will stand in for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is still recovering from a bout of COVID-19.

Dozens of British lawmakers, advisers, civil servants and

journalists have had coronavirus symptoms, likely contracted in the cramped precincts of Parliament and other government buildings.

Johnson spent a week in the hospital, including three nights in intensive care, after contracting the virus. The 55-year-old leader is recuperating in the countryside, and there is no word on when he will be healthy enough to return.

# Stripes

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Fundraiser for needy families goes online

**WV** HUNTINGTON — An annual fundraiser at Marshall University to help feed needy families has moved online.

Marshall said that its art school is teaming up with a pottery studio for the Empty Bowls alternative event.

Marshall said in a news release that the Pottery Place of Huntington has more than 500 bowls and T-shirts listed on its website. The bowls were made by Marshall ceramics students, but some were not finished before the school and the fundraiser were shut down by the coronavirus pandemic.

The bowls and T-shirts cost \$15 apiece. Purchased items can be picked up at the store. Proceeds will go to the Facing Hunger Foodbank, which serves 17 counties in West Virginia, eastern Kentucky and southeastern Ohio.

## Sloth exhibit to open when zoo reopens

**KY** LOUISVILLE — A new sloth exhibit will open when the Louisville Zoo reopens to the public, officials said.

Construction on the exhibit was nearly complete last week, and zoo officials said in a statement that the exhibit will be one of the first notable events to occur when more is known about when the public can safely visit the facility again.

In the meantime, people can connect with the sloths virtually. The zoo said that a new sloth Twitter feed, @louizoozloths, is live and shows humorous updates on the exhibit and the activities of the animals, which are named Sumi and Sebastian.

## Man charged for aiming BB gun at golfers

**FL** PALM COAST — Deputies have arrested a 74-year-old Florida man who allegedly pointed a BB gun at golfers in Palm Coast.

New outlets reported that John Robert Orr was upset over rule-breakers, but this is not a story about people violating stay-at-home orders. In fact, many Florida golf courses have remained open for business during the coronavirus pandemic.

Orr told deputies that other players at the Conservatory Golf Course were driving their carts on the putting greens and over a wooden bridge that's designed for walking. He said that he tried but couldn't reach the authorities and so decided to take matters into his own hands.

He was booked into a detention facility on Friday and charged with seven counts of aggravated assault, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office said.

## High court rejects bid to keep slave block

**VA** FREDERICKSBURG — The Virginia Supreme Court has rejected a petition to prohibit the city of Fredericksburg from moving a historic slave auction block.



JACK HANAHAN, ERIE (Pa.) TIMES-NEWS/AP

## Smiles for the students

Cyndi Pristello, a schoolwide support teacher at JoAnna Connell Elementary School, greets students and their families Saturday as they drive through the school's parking lot during a drive-by-parade. The school moved to online instruction Monday after being closed due to the coronavirus shutdown.

The sandstone block was installed in the city's downtown in the 1840s. After years of debate, the city council voted to move the block to a museum.

A judge upheld the move after business owners in the city sued to keep the stone where it is. But in February, the judge delayed implementation of the order so that the Supreme Court could take up the case.

On Friday, the Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg reported that the Supreme Court rejected the petition.

## Graffiti may mean delay to reopening preserve

**SC** CLEVELAND — Authorities may not be able to reopen a mountain nature preserve in South Carolina if people don't stop spraying painting the rocks with graffiti, wildlife officials said.

The Bald Rock Heritage Preserve in northern Greenville County was closed March 28 because of the coronavirus. The Department of Natural Resources built a fence blocking the entrance and put a wooden plank across a footbridge welcoming visitors to the preserve, WYFF-TV reported.

But the amount of graffiti on the rocks has increased since the closure, wildlife agency spokesman Greg Lewis said.

The wildlife agency is asking

## THE CENSUS

**8** The age of a miniature donkey named Mambo who is getting some online love in North Carolina, where a farm is getting in on the idea of having animals spice up tedious virtual meetings during the coronavirus pandemic. Peace N Peas Farm will rent Mambo and his friends to crash company conference calls, The Charlotte Observer reported. This camera-crowding donkey is "like a pesky little brother" that "doesn't let anyone relax too long," said Francine Dunlap, Mambo's owner.

Boy Scout groups or community groups to help clean the preserve and is asking people nearby to report suspicious activity, Lucas said.

## Destroyed park trees named for fallen officer

**NV** LAS VEGAS — Authorities are trying to identify the person or people who vandalized a park named in honor of a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officer ambushed and fatally shot while on duty in 2014.

Las Vegas deputy city marshals sought the public's assistance in identifying those responsible for the destruction of approximately 25 trees at Alyn Beck Memorial Park in northwest Las Vegas, city officials said Saturday.

City marshals discovered the damage Thursday. Some of the trees were lying in the parking lot, and others were snapped from their base or had branches sawed off.

City officials estimated that

the value of the trees totaled \$55,000.

## Police shoot, kill man with bat inside Walmart

**CA** SAN LEANDRO — Officers shot and killed a man armed with a bat Saturday inside a Walmart store, the San Leandro Police Department said.

Police were called to the store to investigate a report of a man holding a bat, the TV station reported. Officers said they received reports that the man was possibly attempting a robbery. Once officers arrived, they determined that the man did not commit a robbery, but they tried to take the man into custody. Lt. Ted Henderson could not give an answer to KTVU on why officers were trying to detain the man.

Two officers used their Tasers on the man, which they said did not have an effect, police said. A 20-year veteran officer then shot the man one time, killing him, said police.

## Ex-mayor, harsh Trump critic, dies in crash

**CA** AUBURN — The former mayor of a California city who stepped down after he harshly criticized President Donald Trump and his supporters died Saturday in a plane crash, the Sacramento Bee reported.

Dr. Bill Kirby, who was the mayor of Auburn, died in the crash Saturday morning near the Auburn Municipal Airport, officials told the Bee.

Kirby, a urologist, was the pilot of the plane that crashed shortly after 11 a.m., the newspaper reported. A passenger in the plane suffered minor injuries and was taken to a hospital, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Kirby, 72, was a licensed pilot since at least 2009, according to public records cited by the Bee.

Kirby gained notoriety last week after social media posts criticizing Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic and comparing the president's supporters to KKK members.

He told the Auburn Journal a week ago that his Facebook posts were made on a personal page and that "this has nothing to do with my job. I reposted it." He added that he "absolutely" believes Trump is a racist.

From wire reports

## FACES

# Raising a glass for frontline workers

Country singer Brad Paisley updating song, connecting through video to show gratitude

By KRISTIN M. HALL  
Associated Press

Brad Paisley wants to raise a glass to friends, family and frontline workers in the middle of the global pandemic, so just send him a text.

With the release of his new single "No I in Beer," the country star been surprising people on video conference calls to share in a virtual happy hour.

The song originated in 2018 with co-writer Kelley Lovelace, but the chorus of "We're all in this together" felt right for the moment to release, Paisley told The Associated Press from his home in Franklin, Tenn.

"As this pandemic began, everybody adopted this catchphrase, 'We're all in this together,'" said Paisley. "And I had this song rolling around in my head."

Instead of just a rousing drinking song, Paisley thought it could also raise spirits, too, when people needed to find a little happiness.

"It's not just a 'We'll get through whatever you're going through' thing," said Paisley. "It's literally a rallying cry. It's a fight song."

Paisley said he updated some of the original lyrics, which now include a reference to the frontline workers during the spread of the coronavirus, including nurses, first responders, farmers and truck drivers.

"It's just a shoutout to the people who are keeping this country going," said Paisley.

In the spirit of virtual happy hours that have been popular online, Paisley wanted to connect with fans, especially since he couldn't play the song while touring. Paisley, like most touring artists, had to re-

schedule his concert plans this year.

So Paisley put a phone number on social media and asked people to text him the link to their conference calls. He already joined a group of elementary school teachers in Illinois, a young man celebrating his 21st birthday and a group of healthcare workers. On his computer desk, he's got a few handy beer cans ready for a computer screen toast.

"It's inspiring," said Paisley. "They are just staying connected any way they can."

Long before the virus brought to the forefront issues like economic insecurity and lack of access to food, Paisley was working to help people in his community make ends meet. A year ago, Paisley helped break ground in Nashville on a free grocery store called The Store that aimed to help needy families.

In partnership with his alma mater Belmont University, The Store opened last month, but the developing pandemic made the organization adapt quickly to fit the immediate needs of the community. They shifted to handing out food at the door to prevent the spread of the virus and delivering food to elderly people who are at risk of serious health problems if they catch the coronavirus.

His producer, Luke Wooten, even pitched in and recruited his recording studio interns to help The Store deliver food to a local retirement home.

"They went down the hallways and left food at the doorways of each of these elderly folks," said Paisley. "And then as the volunteers got to the end of the hall, all the folks came out of their doors and gave them a standing ovation. And it brought them to tears."



## Netflix has Hemsworth, 'The Chronic' streams and shows end this week



Netflix

Chris Hemsworth stars in "Extraction," a Netflix movie about a mercenary trying to recover a drug lord's kidnapped son.

The Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

### Film

**"Bad Education":** Even before the pandemic, "Bad Education" was one of the more notable movies to bypass theaters. HBO picked it up in a high-priced acquisition at last fall's Toronto Film Festival, and this Saturday will debut Cory Finley's based-on-a-true-story black comedy. Hugh Jackman and Allison Janney star in a tale of flimflammy and farce in an affluent Long Island school district.

**"Circus of Books":** A handful of original movies premiere this week on Netflix, including the Chris Hemsworth action film "Extraction" and the animated family film "The Willoughbys." But the best of the bunch is "Circus of Books," which debuts Wednesday on the streaming service. It's a portrait of a conventional family in an unconventional business. For more than 35 years, Karel and Barry Mason, a straight couple with three kids, ran Circus of Books, a Los Angeles gay porn shop that

played a vital role in the city's LGBTQ life. The documentary, directed by their daughter Rachel Mason, depicts as a Mom and Pop shop unlike any other.

— AP film writer Jake Coyle

### Music

**Dr. Dre, "The Chronic":** Twenty-eight years after its release, Dr. Dre's epic and groundbreaking debut album became available on digital streaming platforms on Monday, which is 4/20, the unofficial holiday for marijuana smoking. The album, released on Death Row Records and now part of the National Recording Registry, wasn't available digitally due to contractual issues. "The Chronic" came after Dre's split from N.W.A. and also introduced the world to hip-hop godfather Snoop Dogg.

**Beastie Boys, "Beastie Boys Story":** Mike Diamond and Adam Horowitz of Beastie Boys take you on a personal and hilarious ride in "Beastie Boys Story," a

new documentary about the iconic New York City group debuting Thursday on Apple TV+. Directed by longtime collaborator and friend Spike Jonze, the film looks at the trio's 40-year career and friendship, with particularly soft and emotional moments about late member Adam "MCA" Yauch, who died from cancer in 2012.

— AP music editor Mesfin Fekadu

### Television

This coming week may test everyone's separation anxiety levels, with many shows saying farewell, at least for now. Wednesday marks the first season finale of "Little Fires Everywhere" on Hulu. Thursday stateside and May 4 on AFN-Spectrum marks the season finale of NBC's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" (don't worry, fans, another season is coming). "Will & Grace" says goodbye forever (again), also Thursday on AFN-Prime. The sadness continues on Sunday when we say goodbye to Carrie Mathison on the series finale of Showtime's spy thriller "Homeland." Here's hoping Claire Danes' intrepid CIA agent finally finds some peace.

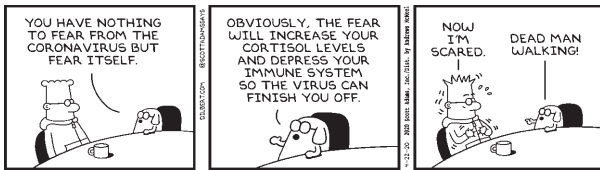
— AP entertainment writer Mark Kennedy



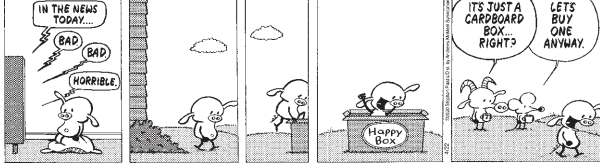
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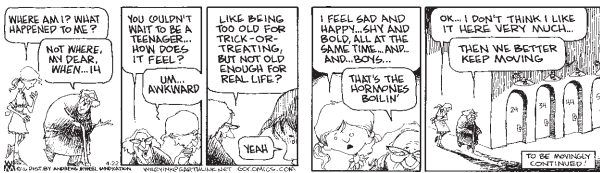
Dilbert



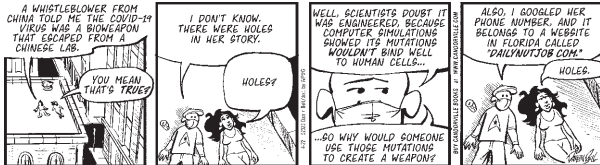
Pearls Before Swine



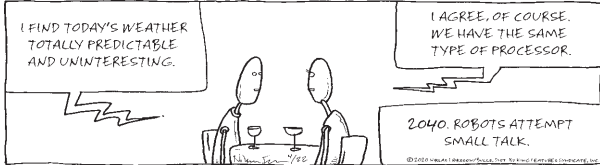
Non Sequitur



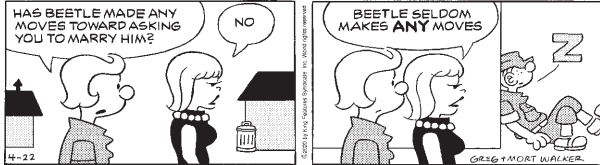
Candorville



Carpe Diem



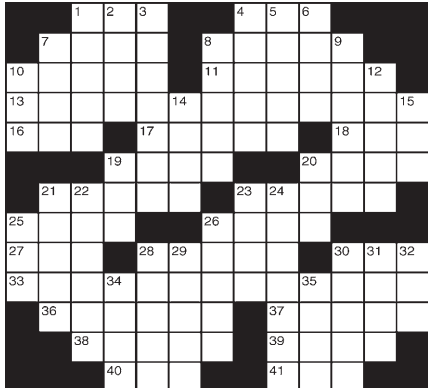
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- Serena, to Venus
- Unpaid TV spot
- Cousin's mom
- "Skyfall"
- actress Judi
- Author Walker
- And others, in Latin
- Male role models
- Dead heat
- Well-versed folks?
- Superlative suffix
- Fuzzy image
- Antique cars
- Winter forecast
- Clutch
- Hoosergow
- Horn sound
- ICU hookups
- "Nick of Time" singer Bonnie
- 30 Billboards
- 33 Homeland
- 36 Comment
- 37 Odor detectors
- 38 Extinct birds
- 39 Monopoly card
- 40 Away from NNE
- 41 Carle lead-in

## DOWN

- "The Nutcracker —"
- 22 On the stock exchange
- 23 Attend
- 24 Capitol feature
- 25 Morrison of The Doors
- 26 Clock sounds
- 28 Peruses
- 29 Cupid's missile
- 30 Confused
- 31 Historic Scott
- 32 Method (Abbr.)
- 34 Med. plan options
- 35 Yuletide tune

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



4-22

## CRYPTOQUIP

Z F N F G K R O E Z T A J E K J Q  
I N B K T O G A N F A G Q J Z K R  
E J F E G Q F O F C Z F J U G Q Z K O J F  
R G A O A . O K ' B B N Q C G Q H  
U G Q I N Q H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE GROUP OF HAM ACTORS PART COMPANY, ONE OF THEM WILL OFTEN SAY "UNTIL WE EMOTE AGAIN."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals N



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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Sean Kimer, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClinton, Pacific commander  
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations  
Joshua M. Lashbrook, Pacific Chief of Staff

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stars.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stars.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stars.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moorese@stars.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stars.com

## BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.erik@stars.com  
+49(0)61.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

**Pacific**  
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stars.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.380

**Washington**  
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stars.com  
+1(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stars.com

## CIRCULATION

**Mideast**  
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager  
reisman.robert.naf@gmail.com  
xscirculation@stars.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

**Europe**  
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
lewis.karen@stars.com  
+49(0)61.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

Mari Mori, Customerhelp@stars.com  
+81-63.685.3171, DSN (315)227.7333

## CONTACT US

**Washington**  
tel: (+1)202.886.0003  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

**Reader letters**  
letters@stars.com

**Additional contacts**  
stars.com/contactus

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Ernie Gates

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# OPINION

## Historical perspective on relief for cause

By CRAIG L. SYMONDS  
Specialist to Stars and Stripes

Short of being arrested for treason, being relieved for cause is the single most devastating indictment that can be imposed on a serving United States military officer. In American history, the most famous such examples are the relief of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 during the Civil War, the relief of Adm. Husband Kimmel after the Pearl Harbor disaster in World War II, and the firing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1951 during the Korean War.

There have been others. In 1942 during the Guadalcanal campaign, the Commander of the Pacific Ocean Area, Adm. Chester Nimitz, relieved Vice Adm. Robert L. Gormley as commander of the South Pacific, and two years later, Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Holland M. "Howling Mad" Smith relieved Army Maj. Gen. Ralph Smith during the fierce fighting on Saipan.

The justification in most of these cases was operational failure — a perception that the commander was simply not effective. McClellan, in Lincoln's famous phrase, had "the slows" and was unwilling to come to grips with the enemy. Kimmel lost his job because public morale was so depressed after the Pearl Harbor attack that someone had to be held responsible. Rightly or wrongly, both Gormley and Ralph Smith were perceived to be insufficiently aggressive.

But politics, too, can play a role in such decisions. In addition to his foot dragging, McClellan was a vocal opponent of Lincoln's war policy. He made it clear, both to Lincoln and to the public, that he thought it was essential to fight only the Southern armies, and not its people, who were, after all, were Americans, too. And he was appalled by the notion that the war might result in the emancipation of the slave population; McClellan wanted no part of leading an army of emancipation. He also felt it was

appropriate for him to tell the administration what its policy should be. In the end, however, it was not for his political views but his foot dragging that Lincoln fired him. Nevertheless, within two years, McClellan was running against Lincoln for president.

There was also a strong political component in the most famous dismissal in recent American history: that of Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War.

After the Chinese Red Army entered the war in the winter of 1950-51, Truman sought to find a way out of the expanding war rather than extend it into China itself, which MacArthur insisted was necessary. Despite being ordered not to promote his views in public, MacArthur wrote a letter to Republican Congressman William Martin of Massachusetts. (It was in this letter that MacArthur proclaimed, "There is no substitute for victory.")

Martin published the letter in the Congressional Record in an obvious effort to influence public opinion in favor of a wider war. Because Truman had ordered MacArthur not to communicate his views to the public, he saw this as open defiance and ordered that MacArthur should be relieved of his command.

All of these historic examples took place in wartime when a swift decision was considered essential either to prevent a disaster or to hasten victory. The removal of a commanding officer for cause in peacetime is rare. When it does happen it is often because an individual has challenged his superiors in confrontational or even mutinous ways, advocating actions that are out of line with government policy.

In the case of Capt. Bret Crozier, the justification for his relief is that he violated the chain of command. By allowing copies of his letter about the health of his sailors on the USS Theodore Roosevelt to become public, Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly explained, Crozier violated the chain of command and exposed the Navy to criticism.

Significantly, that chain of command does not go from the captain of an aircraft carrier to the Secretary of the Navy. It goes first to the task force commander.

Every U.S. Navy aircraft carrier has both a captain, who runs the ship on a day-to-day basis, and a Group Commander, usually a rear admiral, who has a suite of offices ("flag quarters") on the carrier, and who commands the task force that includes not only the carrier, but also a guided missile cruiser (in this case, the USS Bunker Hill) and a destroyer squadron (here DesRon 23).

The chain of command then extends upward from the Group Commander to the Pacific Fleet commander, and then to the Chief of Naval Operations before it reaches the Secretary of the Navy.

A letter of concern such as the one written by Crozier would ordinarily pass up the various links in this chain of command before arriving at the Secretary's desk. We don't know at what point, or even if, someone in that chain determined that taking the Theodore Roosevelt ("The Big Stick") temporarily out of service was too risky. We also don't know how a copy of Crozier's letter ended up in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Like all Navy officers, the captain of a ship, or for that matter, the commander of a strike group, and even the Secretary of the Navy, is both accountable to his superiors, and also responsible to the men and women he commands.

Balancing those obligations can be difficult, even wrenching. There is no textbook answer about how to proceed; each circumstance, each decision, is unique. Command is lonely and burdensome precisely because all U.S. Navy officers know that they must be prepared to accept the consequences of their decisions, whatever they may be.

Craig L. Symonds is the Ernest J. King Distinguished Professor of Naval History at the Naval War Academy and Professor Emeritus at the U.S. Naval Academy

## Thumbs-down to hearty handshake greetings

By JOHN-CLARK LEVIN  
The Washington Post

When Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, suggested it might be time to permanently retire the handshake, my news feed filled with scoffing from both sides of the aisle. For some, Fauci's statement was a sop to the president's reputed germophobia. For others, it was "deep state" prissiness running roughshod over common sense.

But as an avid handshaker and someone of an expert on the subject, I have to second the good doctor's prescription.

No, my expertise doesn't come from a lab or an academic degree. Rather, it was certified by Guinness World Records, after a friend and I in 2009 set the record (subsequently broken) for "Longest Continuous Handshake" to raise money for cancer research. How long, you ask? Fifteen hours, 15 minutes and 15 seconds. Hundreds of thousands of shakes.

The stunt was admittedly frivolous, but it forced me to study this practice inside and out, and left me hyperattuned to the subtleties of the shake.

The most obvious is cleanliness. Since my generation handshake, I have found myself noticing how often proffered hands were sticky or unaccountably damp. I still shoo hands, since I appreciate the ritual's

social value. But shaking hands seemed increasingly paradoxical. If you wouldn't take a handful of a grimy toilet seat, why press palms with a stranger who might have done just that? It's difficult to make a good first impression when stirring such unsanitary thoughts.

But a deeper issue is the social anxiety fostered by handshaking, particularly for men. Boys are still taught that men judge others by the "quality" of their handshake — firm but not too firm, substantial but not lingering, eye contact but not creepy. Unsure that they have a properly manly shake, some overcompensate.

Although most guys don't act that way, I realized that for many this dynamic adds a layer of mutual apprehension to greetings that ought to suggest openness and respect. And the overtones of physical competition can make the ritual unwelcoming to women. Hugging is the warmer option, but that quality — even before COVID-19 struck — what makes hugging inappropriate with strangers and in professional settings.

Yet what's the alternative? Elbow bumps, foot taps and air high-fives have become popular during the pandemic, but they're too obviously just temporary workarounds. Howie Mandel is famously an evangelist for the fist bump, but it's too casual for funerals and other formal occasions. Perhaps we should follow Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recommendation

last month that handshakes be replaced by the "namaste" gesture.

Pressing one's palms and fingers together vertically, while bowing slightly, conveys something much closer to what we actually want a universal greeting to accomplish. In its original Hindu form, it expresses "I bow to the divine in you." In a secular Western context, the gesture communicates good will without any handshake-like undertones of status or dominance.

It signals purpose and self-mastery; no need to worry that anyone is judging the quality of the execution. And instead of echoing medieval warrior culture, as the handshake does, the namaste gesture evokes the reverence of Christian prayer.

To be clear, I'm not shakephobic. I truly enjoyed a heartfelt handshake before social distancing intervened. But the value wasn't in the physical grabbing of flesh — it was in the friendliness that the ritual communicates in the context of American customs.

Among the many things we'll reassess in the wake of COVID-19, why not consider whether the namaste can permanently do that job better? A certain immunologist could do the country a favor by trying the namaste at the next White House coronavirus briefing.

Levin is a Ph.D. candidate in politics and international studies at the University of Cambridge.

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Texas, Florida eager for a NASCAR restart

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The race is on among states willing to be the first to host NASCAR races without fans.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted Monday that NASCAR was working with Texas Motor Speedway on a plan to race there. "I hope to announce the exciting details in the near future," Abbott said. "To prevent spread of #COVID19, it will be without fans. But they will put on a great show for TV."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had already spoken to Daytona Beach-based NASCAR executive Lesa France Kennedy, potentially putting both NASCAR-controlled Homestead-Miami Speedway and Daytona International Speedway in play at some point.

After Abbott's announcement, Texas Motor Speedway President Eddie Gossage said his track was working on the rescheduling of its Cup Series event, of one eight races NASCAR has postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. NASCAR has said it plans to run all of its remaining 32 races.

The Texas race, the first of two this year at the 1½-mile Fort Worth track, was scheduled for March 29.

"Texas Motor Speedway will work aggressively with the sanctioning bodies and TV networks to give American society, as well as people around the world, a positive distraction during this crisis," Gossage said. "A non-spectator event is not perfect because in our sport, the fans come first. But circumstances are such that this is a novel answer for the return of the sport for now. We are now working on a hard date."

Marcus Smith, the CEO of Speedway Motorsports — which owns Charlotte Motor Speedway and the Texas track — said he is eager to work with North Carolina Gov.

Greg Abbott  
Texas governor,  
on restarting NASCAR

circumstances are such that this is a novel answer for the return of the sport for now. We are now working on a hard date."

Marcus Smith, the CEO of Speedway Motorsports — which owns Charlotte Motor Speedway and the Texas track — said he is eager to work with North Carolina Gov.

Roy Cooper to ensure the Coca-Cola 600 runs as scheduled May 24. Republican state lawmakers have asked Cooper, a Democrat, to allow the showcase race.

"For 60 years, this race has been a Memorial Day weekend tradition," Smith said. "We want to do everything possible to support NASCAR, the dozens of race teams in North Carolina and the fans to get back on track."

Most NASCAR race teams are based in North Carolina, which is under a stay-at-home order through April.

A Cooper spokesman, Ford Porter, said Sunday the governor "knows the importance of NASCAR to our state and he's already been talking with track and team owners about how we could potentially restart racing. It's too soon to predict specific decisions about future sporting events but any plan would prioritize public health and safety and preventing spread of the virus."

NASCAR teams have cars built for the tracks at Atlanta and Homestead, so the first track back has to be suitable to their design. That doesn't take Daytona out of the equation; it just means the teams have to be allowed to go back to work in their

shops to build superspeedway cars.

As states begin to relax restrictions intended to prevent the spread of the virus, there will be more opportunities for NASCAR to go racing.

The series could eventually get to Darlington Raceway in South Carolina, Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee or Atlanta Motor Speedway, where teams were preparing to race when a national state of emergency was issued in mid-March and the season was indefinitely suspended.

In Texas, state parks reopened Monday as the state began what its Republican governor said will be a gradual unraveling of restrictions. The state also this week will allow doctors to resume nonessential surgeries and let retailers sell items for curbside pickup, with more restrictions to be lifted before the end of the month.

"Our sport is unique because the competitors are inside the race cars with no body-to-body contact like most other sports," Gossage said. "That is a distinct advantage over other sports and why you will likely see auto racing as the first live sport returning to action."

Jenna Fryer of the Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Poll: Fans wary about going to sports events without vaccine

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
Associated Press

With the distinct possibility of pro sports resuming in empty venues, a recent poll suggests a majority of U.S. fans wouldn't feel safe attending games anyway without a COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the Seton Hall Sports Poll, 72% of Americans said they would not feel safe attending games without a vaccine, though the number dropped to 61% among people who identified themselves as sports fans. Nearly half the respondents in the poll, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points, said they either didn't follow sports closely or didn't follow sports at all.

So even if fans are allowed back in stadiums or arenas, many may not come. And the financial losses in such a scenario will be significant without the revenue that comes from tickets, concessions and merchandise, among other things — even if money is flowing from lucrative media rights deals.

If the NBA and NHL have to cancel the rest of their season, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer play only half their regular schedules, the losses in fan-related revenue could reach \$3 billion, according to Patrick Rishie, director of the sports business program at Washington University in St. Louis.

"Those losses that I mentioned, both in terms of their season and game day-related spending at the venues on food, beverage, parking, merchandise, you name it, that's money that's gone," Rishie said. "Even if money on tickets is credited to next season, it's still an opportunity lost. So it's pretty sizable."

David Carter, a professor in the sports business school at Southern California, said there is a difference between a sports fan and a sports consumer. The latter is



SCOTT KANE/AP

St. Louis Blues fans watch television coverage of Game 7 of the team's Stanley Cup Final against the Boston Bruins on June 12. A recent poll suggests a majority of U.S. fans wouldn't feel safe attending games without a coronavirus vaccine.

more likely to return whenever fans are allowed into venues.

"I can't imagine that the sports consumers, or you might call them the committed fans or the hardcore fans, they're not going to stay away for a year," Carter said. "They're championing at the bit right now."

Baseball's TV deal averages about \$1.5 billion annually and runs through next year, and the NBA is roughly halfway through a nine-year deal that pays about \$2.6 billion each year. The NHL's rights deal is just \$2 billion total for 10 years — an average of \$200 million per season.

Carter wondered if owners and league officials are weighing TV money that comes with resuming play against the lost revenue of empty stadiums and arenas.

"Right now, are the media dollars at permanent risk or they just at risk of being deferred?" Carter asked. "And I would argue that because these teams and leagues are working with their media partners as that, as partners, it's more likely that they'll come up with a workaround that might not be ideal, but might be better than the optics of having to move forward with fans in the building and protecting the turnstile

revenue that they would have otherwise made."

College football is facing its own set of questions, including whether students will be allowed back on campuses and when. The sport is critical to nearly all athletic department budgets and officials are bracing for significant dips in revenue.

If public health officials say it's safe to return large events, I don't think it's realistic that everybody is going to feel good about coming to games," Baylor athletic director Mack Rhoades said. "And then, because of the economy, people are going to be impacted and not everybody is going to be able to afford a ticket."

Among other findings in the poll, most fans thought U.S. pro sports leagues acted at the right time to suspend their seasons. The vast majority also agreed that the International Olympic Committee didn't move too quickly in postponing the Tokyo Games until the summer of 2021.

About 70% of respondents said the NFL shouldn't start in the fall, even with social distancing. And 76% said they would have the same interest in watching live sports on TV even if fans are not in the stands.

## Sports poll results

Some of the findings from the Seton Hall Sports Poll in which 762 U.S. adults reached by phone April 6-8 were asked their thoughts during the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down the nation's sports calendar. Of the respondents, 54% said they followed sports closely or very closely, while 46% said they didn't follow sports closely or didn't follow sports at all. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

## GOING TO GAMES?

■ 72% of those responding said they wouldn't feel safe attending games without a COVID-19 vaccine. That number dropped to 61% among those who identified themselves as sports fans. Overall, 12% said they would feel safe with social distancing while 13% said they would feel safe attending games like they had in the past.

## RESPONDING TO THE VIRUS

■ 76% felt professional leagues in the U.S. acted at the right time to suspend their seasons, while 16% thought the leagues didn't react quickly enough. Only 6% said the decisions were made too quickly.

■ Asked if the International Olympic Committee acted too quickly rescheduling the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to 2021, 84% of respondents said no.

## NFL SEASON

■ 70% said the NFL shouldn't start in the fall to ensure the safety of players, even if some form of social distancing is still in place. And 20% said the season should start with players being allowed to choose not to play, while 6% said the league should start as planned.

## PLAYING AT ALL?

■ 40% said sports shouldn't be played for the remainder of 2020. For those who said sports should be played, 12% said it should happen with fans present, 23% with restricted attendance and 21% with no fans present.

## WATCHING LIVE GAMES

■ 76% said they would have the same interest watching a broadcast of live sports played without fans; 16% would be less interested and 7% would be more interested.

— Associated Press







## NFL DRAFT

## No hangups during dry run

## Mock draft tests new technology, communications

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

The NFL's practice draft Monday to test technology and communications for the real thing beginning Thursday night had no major hangups.

There were some technical glitches at the outset, when the Cincinnati Bengals were making the first selection, and at various spots, several people involved in the virtual test told The Associated Press. A few of them spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Indeed, Commissioner Roger Goodell earlier this month warned team executives not to be critical of the process, nor of the league's decision to go ahead with the draft as scheduled April 23-25.

But general managers John Lynch of the NFC champion San Francisco 49ers and John Elway of the Denver Broncos were satisfied with the proceedings.

"I think we used it as another opportunity to focus on internally," Lynch said. "I think the chatter out there about that I understand is going on, that it really wasn't in a good situation, I didn't really see that. I think early there were a couple of hitches. That's why we do practice trial runs."

Adds Elway: "The draft went smooth. It got off to a little bit of a hiccup when we first started, but other than that I thought it went really smooth. There were no problems with it, so we got more comfortable with it. So, it should be fine and go on without a



VASHA HUNT/AP

Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa is expected to be a first-round draft pick.

glitch — I'm sure there will be a couple of glitches here and there — but actually for the first time I thought it went pretty well."

The challenges, as noted by several people involved, included too much background noise; team personnel talking over others; and timing issues.

"It had its glitches, but to call it messy would be inaccurate," one of the people said. "There were some sound issues and technical stuff that seemed to get solved to the satisfaction of the teams."

Elway knows who the key members of each club will be Thursday and Friday nights and Saturday afternoon.

"The heroes in all this are the IT guys," he said.

Goodell ordered all team facilities closed in March, and later required club personnel to conduct the draft from their homes. Because of the reliance on free-flowing communication, the league decided to stage the prac-

tice draft to ensure all goes smoothly later this week.

The draft originally was scheduled for Las Vegas, but the NFL canceled all public events last month as a safeguard against the coronavirus. On April 6, Goodell instructed teams on how they should plan to make selections.

"After consulting with medical advisers, we cannot identify an alternative that is preferable from a medical or public health perspective, given the varying needs of clubs, the need properly to screen participants, and the unique risk factors that individual club employees may face," he wrote.

Among the technologies needed for the actual draft are team web meetings and a web hookup with the league itself. There also will be phone lines for communicating with other teams for trades, which must be approved by the NFL central office.

AP writers Josh Dubow and Arnie Stapleton contributed.

## Impact: Last year's rookie WRs made a big splash

## FROM BACK PAGE

plug-and-play approach with bigger, faster, quicker pass catchers coming out.

Calvin Ridley and D.J. Moore made big splashes in 2018, followed by Deebo Samuel, DK Metcalf, Marquise Brown, Terry McLaurin and A.J. Brown, who wasted no time establishing their credentials last season.

"Last year was a good year in terms of a bunch of rookies coming in and having a lot of success, but if you look over the last several years, that second- and third-round receiver group has arguably been better than the first-round group," said NFL Draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah.

The challenge in scouting the position is it's almost like two different games for college and the NFL in terms of what routes you're asked to run, which are very limited at the college level," Jeremiah said.

"You watch a college game on Saturday you're going to see a bunch of slants, hitches and go's. It's very limited in terms of what they ask them to do, very limited in terms of them having to read coverage and sight-adjust their routes. They don't see very much

press coverage."

Reading and reacting to coverage and keeping defenders from knocking them off their routes can prove difficult even for receivers who dominated college competition.

"There's just a lot of adjustment there, but I give the NFL credit," Jeremiah said. "I think the last couple of years we're seeing the NFL be a little smarter with the transition period for these guys and figuring out ways they can get them on fly sweeps or bubble screens and just get the ball in their hands and let them make plays, simplifying it a little bit while they're young before they can grow and evolve into everything you want them to be."

Jeremiah said last season in particular provided "the blueprint to get these guys on the field and improve that track record at the position."

Intersecting this meet-you-halfway approach is an uptick in the athleticism of wide receivers, a product of the multiple-receiver sets now the norm all the way down to youth football.

"I think in today's day and age where these guys were starting 7-on-7, it's almost like AAU basketball," Packers GM Brian Gutekunst said.

"The receivers are so much more

advanced in terms of their fundamentals coming into college and the league than maybe they have been in the past. It's really just the NFL offense that will take time."

"So I think there's some guys sitting here today that I think will have a chance to make a pretty immediate impact, and I'm excited about that."

Washington Redskins coach Ron Rivera said today's prospects are primed for the pro game as never before.

Top-end receivers this year include Colorado's Laviska Shenault, Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs III, Oklahoma's CeeDee Lamb, LSU's Justin Jefferson, Arizona State's Brandon Aiyuk and Clemson's Tee Higgins.

"This receivers' class is honestly unbelievable in my eyes," Lamb said. "You can't really go wrong with anybody you draft" in any round. "You're going to get a great pick."

Whether in search of a crisp route runner, a deep threat, a fearless player going over the middle or even taking the direct snap, there's someone for everyone in this year's draft.

"I think this class is going to do great things," Shenault said.

Right from the start, no less.

## Wide receivers

## Jerry Jeudy, 6-1, 193, Alabama

**Strengths:** Smooth and polished route runner with excellent burst.

**Weaknesses:** Slim build lacks strength.

**Fact:** Caught 26 touchdown passes, second behind only Amarri Cooper in Alabama history.

**Gone by:** About No. 12.

## CeeDee Lamb, 6-1, 195, Oklahoma

**Strengths:** Game-breaking elusiveness after the catch.

**Weaknesses:** Will have to develop quickness off the line to beat press coverage.

**Fact:** All-American and Biletnikoff Award finalist last season.

**Gone by:** About No. 12.

## Henry Ruggs III, 5-11, 188, Alabama

**Strengths:** Elite speed and acceleration.

**Weaknesses:** His game is somewhat limited but what he does well is hard to find.

**Fact:** Almost 25% of his 98 career receptions went for touchdowns (24).

**Gone by:** Top 20.

## Justin Jefferson, 6-1, 202, LSU

**Strengths:** Dominated from the slot with great body control.

**Weaknesses:** Size and strength weren't tested much in LSU's offense.

**Fact:** Led major college football with 111 catches last year for 1,540 yards.

**Gone by:** End of the first round.

## Tee Higgins, 6-4, 216, Clemson

**Strengths:** Takes advantage of his size to make contested catches.

**Weaknesses:** Doesn't get a lot of separation in his routes.

**Fact:** Tied DeAndre Hopkins and Sammy Watkins with school-record 27 touchdown catches at Clemson.

**Gone by:** Middle of the second.

## Denzel Mims, 6-2, 207, Baylor

**Strengths:** Blazing speed and long arms.

**Weaknesses:** Inconsistent hands. Makes great catches, drops some easy ones.

**Fact:** Texas state 3A high school champion in the 200-meter dash.

**Gone by:** Middle of the second.

## Laviska Shenault Jr., 6-1, 227, Colorado

**Strengths:** Powerful and explosive player getting to the ball and running with it after the catch.

**Weaknesses:** Injuries limited him to short bursts of high-level production.

**Fact:** Scored six touchdowns receiving and five rushing in his breakout 2018 season.

**Gone by:** Anywhere from end of Round 1 to end of Round 3.

## Brandon Aiyuk, 6-0, 205, Arizona State

**Strengths:** Dangerous after the catch.

**Weaknesses:** Needs to play stronger in traffic.

**Fact:** Missed the Senior Bowl after abdominal injury.

**Gone by:** Middle of the second.

## K.J. Hamler, 5-9, 185, Penn State

**Strengths:** Elusive with uncommon burst of speed.

**Weaknesses:** Undersized and had some drops last season.

**Fact:** Tom ACL cost him senior year of high school and he redshirted as a freshman in college.

**Gone by:** Some might see Tyreek Hill-type playmaker and grab him in the first round. Or he could slip to Day 3.

## Chase Claypool, 6-4, 238, Notre Dame

**Strengths:** Huge with a 4.4 speed.

**Weaknesses:** Much room for improvement in route running.

**Fact:** Could end up as a tight end.

**Gone by:** Grew up in British Columbia, just north of the U.S. border.

**Gone by:** End of Day 2.

## Jalen Reagor, 5-10, 206, TCU

**Strengths:** Speed to get deep and shiftness to turn short plays into long ones.

**Weaknesses:** Can get pushed around in coverage.

**Fact:** The son of former Texas Tech star and longtime NFL defensive lineman Montae Reagor.

**Gone by:** End of Day 2.

## Michael Pittman, 6-4, 223, USC

**Strengths:** Big receiver who can overwhelm defenders with size and body control.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks quickness.

**Fact:** Father Michael Pittman played running back for Fresno State and 11 seasons in the NFL.

**Gone by:** End of Day 2.

## Others

Van Jefferson, Florida; Bryan Edwards, South Carolina; K.J. Hill, Ohio State; Collin Johnson, Texas; Lynn Bowden, Kentucky.

— Associated Press

## SPORTS BRIEFS/BASEBALL



Associated Press

**Baltimore Colts linebacker Mike Curtis flattens an intoxicated fan that ran on the field trying to steal the football against the Miami Dolphins in Baltimore on Dec. 11, 1971. Curtis, a hard-hitting, no-nonsense linebacker who helped the Colts win a Super Bowl during a 14-year career spent predominantly in Baltimore, died Monday in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was 77.**

## Briefly

## Hard-hitting LB Curtis dies

The Associated Press

**BALTIMORE** — Mike Curtis, a hard-hitting, no-nonsense linebacker who helped the Colts win a Super Bowl during a 14-year NFL career spent predominantly in Baltimore, has died. He was 77.

Curtis died Monday in St. Petersburg, Fla. Son Clay said on Twitter his father died of "complications from CTE," a degenerative brain disease.

Curtis earned the nickname "Mad Dog" because of his fierce play in the middle of a strong Baltimore defense.

"One of the game's most legendary non-Hall-of-Famers. Ferocious on the field, a gentleman off the field," Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay wrote on Twitter.

Curtis was selected 14th overall in the 1965 draft by the Colts after starring as a fullback at Duke University. He started out with Baltimore as a fullback but rose to stardom in his second sea-

son when he played linebacker full time.

Curtis was a four-time Pro Bowl linebacker. He had his best season in 1970, when he intercepted five passes for the Colts. Then, in the Super Bowl against Dallas, he picked off a pass in the waning minutes to set up a winning field goal by Jim O'Brien.

## Brady kicked out of Tampa park

**TAMPA, Fla.** — Six Super Bowl rings may get you special treatment in a lot of places but former Patriots quarterback Tom Brady learned Monday that it won't get you anything when you're caught working out in a park that is closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Tampa Mayor Jane Castor said during a news briefing Monday that the new Buccaneers quarterback was spotted working out by himself at a park downtown by staff patrol. The staffer went over

to tell him he had to leave and she recognized the man to be the 42-year-old Brady.

## Jags' Ngakoue calls owner's son spoiled

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** — Disgruntled Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Yannick Ngakoue goaded minority owner Tony Khan, calling him spoiled in a Twitter exchange Monday, in hopes of escalating his public trade demand.

Khan, the team's senior vice president of football administration and technology and the son of majority owner Shad Khan, eventually told Ngakoue to "show me the compensation. I'm sure you're really driving up the price."

Ngakoue has been vocal about his displeasure with the franchise since the end of last season and has repeatedly said his time in Jacksonville is done. The Jaguars placed the franchise tag on Ngakoue last month.

## MLB can cut pay, lay off managers, coaches on May 1

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has made a move that allows teams to lay off or cut the pay of major and minor league managers, coaches, trainers and full-time scouts starting May 1.

Manfred has suspended uniform employee contracts that cover about 9,000 people, including general managers on some teams. Manfred cited the inability to play games due to the national emergency caused by the new coronavirus pandemic.

"Our clubs rely heavily on revenue from tickets/concessions, broadcasting/media, licensing and sponsorships to pay salaries," Manfred wrote in an email Monday, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. "In the absence of games, these revenue streams will be lost or substantially reduced, and clubs will not have sufficient funds to meet their financial obligations."

"The impact of the suspension of the UEC on your personal employment situation will be determined by your club," Manfred said.

Manfred's intention to suspend the contracts was first reported by The Athletic.

Arizona, Atlanta, Boston, the Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati, Minnesota, the New York Yankees, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Toronto are among the teams that have committed to paying full-time employees through May, and Miami will pay full-time baseball operations staff through the month. The Cubs will pay those on UECs and front-office staff through their May 29 paychecks.



LM OTERO/AP

**Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred, above, has suspended uniform employee contracts that cover about 9,000 people, including general managers on some teams.**

Major League Rule 3(i) requires that UECs must be signed by all managers, coaches, trainers and salaried scouts, and some teams include additional baseball operations staff.

"Pursuant to the terms of the UEC, the club's exclusive right to your services will remain in effect during the period of the suspension such that you will not be permitted to perform services for any other club," Manfred wrote.

"I fully recognize the hardship that this health crisis creates for all members of the baseball community. Central baseball and the clubs are doing everything possible to try to minimize this impact for as many employees as possible."

Manfred said the Baseball Assistance Team charitable organization "is available to consider grant applications on an expedited basis for those facing significant and immediate financial hardship."

## Players upset over pay-cut prospects

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Major League Baseball players are upset over the prospect teams may seek additional pay cuts if games are played in empty ballparks due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Their anger was stoked last week when New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he was told by Mets chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon that the union would have to agree to lower salaries if games are played without fans.

A March 26 deal between the sides stated "The Office of the Commissioner and Players Association will discuss in good faith the economic feasibility of playing games in the absence of spectators or at appropriate

substitute neutral sites." The union points to another passage covering salaries in which players agree to give up 1/162nd of base pay for each regular-season game lost.

"Players recently reached an agreement with Major League Baseball that outlines economic terms for resumption of play, which included significant salary adjustments and a number of other compromises. That negotiation is over," union head Tony Clark said in a statement Monday.

The agreement says that without consent by the commissioner's office, the season won't start until there are no official restrictions that would limit teams from playing in front of fans in the 30 clubs' home ballparks. It also states "the commissioner will consider the use of appropriate substitute

neutral sites where economically feasible."

There is little chance for a full 162-game schedule. St. Louis reliever Andrew Miller, a member of the union's eight-man executive committee, would lose \$70,988 per game of his \$11.5 million salary.

"My understanding is that we already have an agreement in place regarding salary for the 2020 season when it resumes," Miller wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

"While ideas regarding games without fans or in neutral sites have been floated, nothing is even close to being put in place. ... If at some point there is any negotiation to be had, our leadership from the association will be ready to handle it," he wrote.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

**St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Andrew Miller, a member of the union's eight-man executive committee, would lose \$70,988 per game of his \$11.5 million salary for each game of the schedule his team misses.**



## SPORTS



## Curtis dies

Hard-hitting Colts linebacker was 77 » Sports briefs, Page 23

NFL DRAFT

## IMPACT

# Deep wide receiver class may contribute immediately

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
Associated Press

**T**he upcoming NFL Draft features a tantalizing class of wide receivers expected to make an immediate impact as rookies.

It's a tall task even for an exceptionally deep group that's expected to produce up to a half dozen first-round picks Thursday night.

Receivers face one of the hardest adjustments to the pros because they have to absorb a monster playbook, beat press coverage and elude D-backs who are quicker, stronger and savvier.

Sometimes the gamble pays off, sometimes it doesn't.

"One of the things that makes it tough to evaluate is that there's so much difference playing at the National Football League level because of all the defenses we see and all the adjustments they have to make,"

said longtime talent evaluation expert Gil Brandt, a Pro Football Hall of Famer.

Quarterback is the only position with a steeper learning curve, Brandt suggested.

"These guys have to do a lot more things in the NFL as far as adjustments — and do it quickly," he said. "And the other thing is separation. There's a lot of guys that can run fast but they can't separate."

Mark Dominik, a SiriusXM NFL Radio host and former Buccaneers general manager, said receivers go from facing "18-, 19- and 20-year-old young men who aren't as strong or as physical as they're going to end up being" to "going up against a 29-year-old man and it's a huge difference."

"I think that's why you see receivers bust, just because of the different player they're going against."

That is starting to change, however.

Teams are more willing than ever to bypass the old wait-and-watch standby for a

**SEE IMPACT ON PAGE 22**



VASHA HUNT, TOP, AND CHARLIE RIEDEL, BOTTOM/AP

Alabama's Jerry Jeudy, top left, and Oklahoma's CeeDee Lamb, bottom right, are two of a group of wide receivers expected to produce up to a half-dozen first-round picks.

**Inside:** Team-by-team draft capsules, Pages 20-21

## TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.



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